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QWAN
怪力乱神
TOKYOPOP
4
AKI SHIMIZU

クラン

4

QWAN™

Volume 4

By
Aki Shimizu

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

QWAN Volume 4
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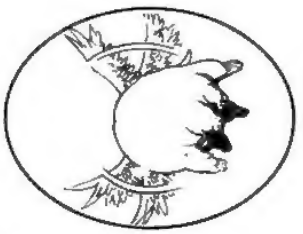
Our Characters

Qwan

A demon-eating boy with superhuman powers. He doesn't know what he is, but he knows he has some goal he must achieve. Currently he seeks the key to his past: the Essential Arts of Peace scroll.

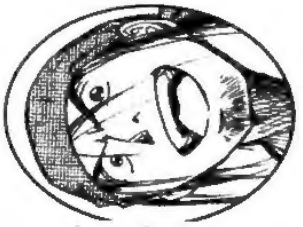


Teikou

His relation to Qwan is as yet unknown, but their companionship is proof that Qwan is no normal boy. Occasionally, Teikou startles people by transporting them to different surroundings.

Daki

A girl who was raised by bugs and has the power to control them. Yuushi ordered her to find the Essential Arts of Peace--but he doesn't know she's joined up with Qwan. Daki lost her first kiss to Qwan in Volume 1.



Chikei

A ne'er do-well who took up with Qwan to make a fast buck off his powers, Chikei was drawn into this adventure against his will. But he'll come through for Qwan in the end...right?

Shaga

A mysterious prostitute who appears to know Qwan's true identity.

Aman

A young aristocrat who has begun to help Qwan. Also known as Cao Cao.

Yuushi

Daki's foster father, he seeks the Essential Arts of Peace to fulfill his ambition of ruling all of Earth.

Jou Kai

An aristocrat who appears to possess the real Essential Arts of Peace.

The Journey Thus Far

A demon-eating, superhuman boy named Qwan begins a journey to find his purpose. Qwan follows a mysterious creature and becomes lost in the world of the Immortals. However, the Immortals soon discover that he is, in fact, human...

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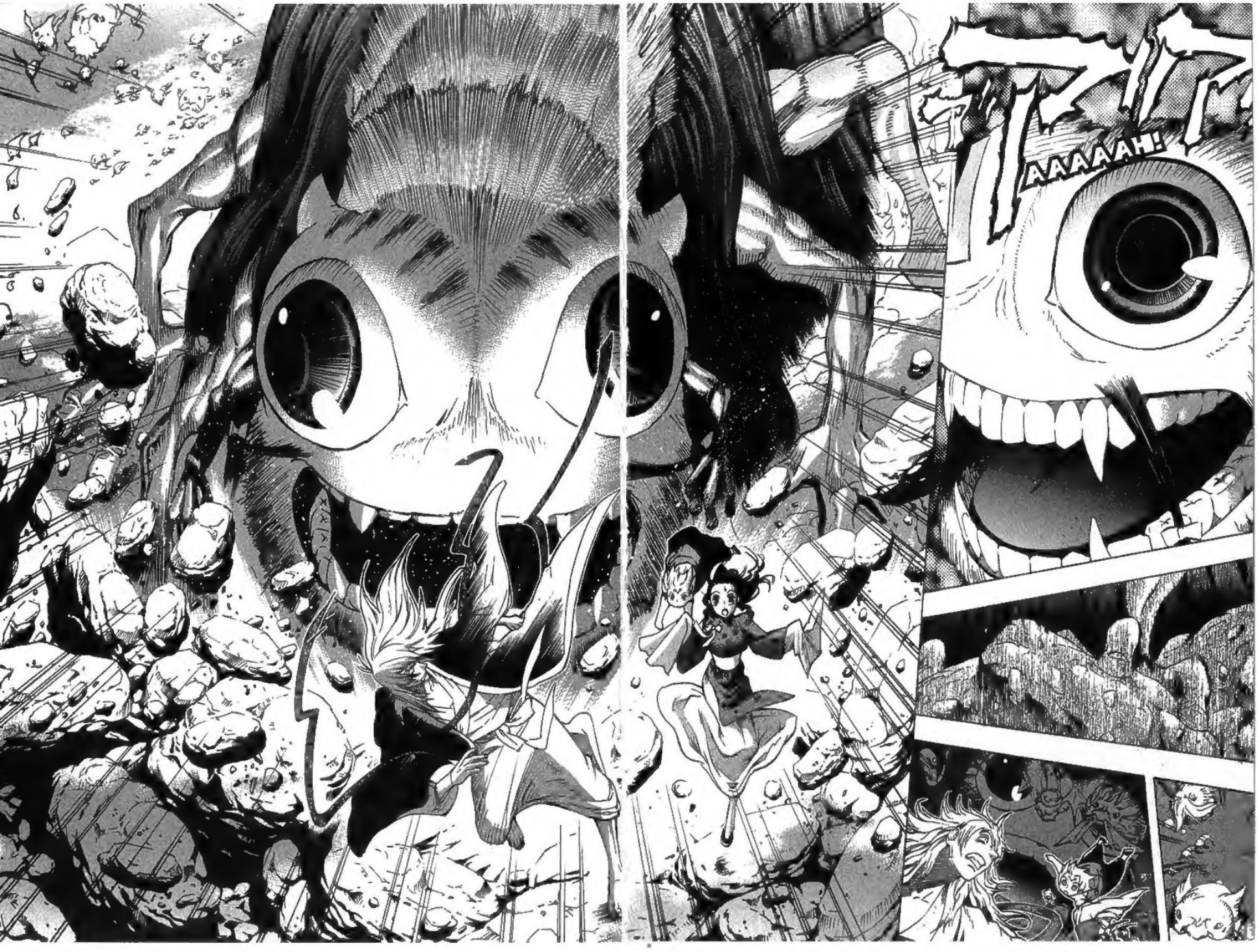

AAAAAH!

AAAAAH!
WAAAH!
THAT'S THE EXIT!

Eeeek!

!!
OH SH--
AH!
AAAAH!

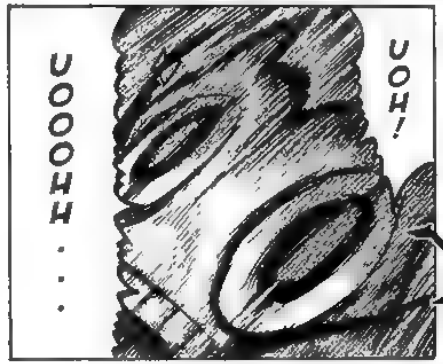
!!
QWAN, NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO GET YOUR APPETITE BACK!

HE MUST BE SLAIN NOW, WHILE HE'S STILL INCOMPLETE!
SUCH IS THE WILL OF THOSE WHO SENT HIM!

.....?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

WHY?
WHY DO YOU LET HIM LIVE, STACHE-LESS?!


UOH!
UOOOHH...

UOOOOH!
THIS BOY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE...
...OR THOSE WITH AND WITHOUT BEARDS WILL ALL BE DEVOURED!

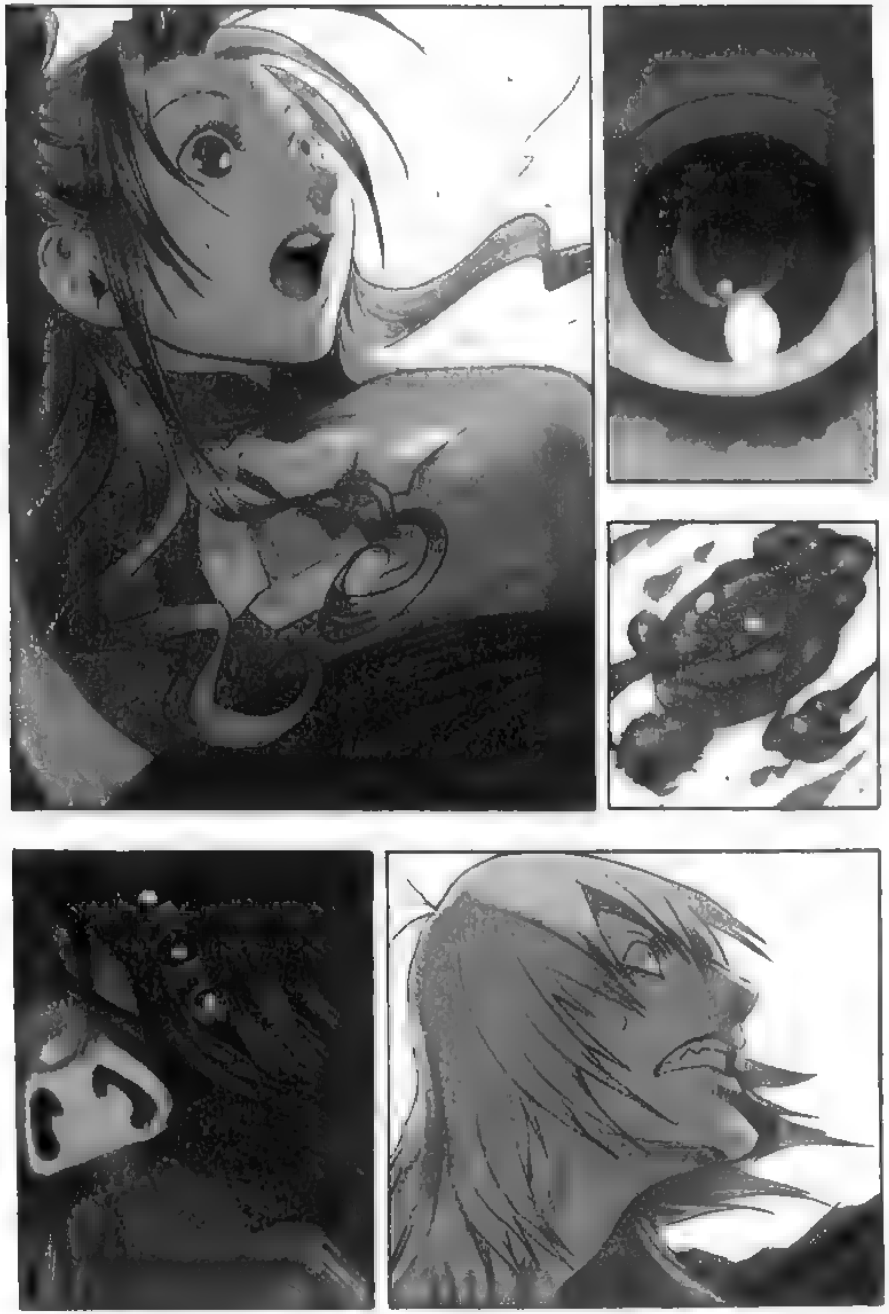
HE'S NOT A BOY, WOMAN! YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE HIS MOTHER!
BUT--
WE NEED TO HELP HIM!
IT'S NO USE NOW!
WHAP!
..AH!
WE'LL ONLY GET OURSELVES SWALLOWED AS WELL.
WE CAN BE OF NO HELP TO HIM.

GULP
WAIT!
QWAN!!

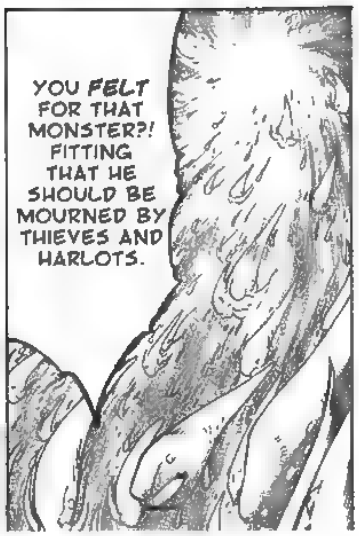
AAAAGH!
YOU DECEIT-DRIVEN STACHELESS ONES DESERVE DEATH!
YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE!

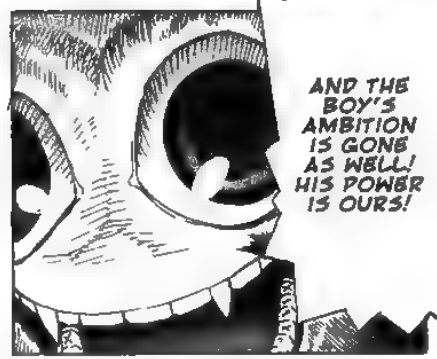
POWER! ABSOLUTE POWER! I CAN FEEL IT ON THE TIPS OF MY HAIRS!!
SUCH STRENGTH!! INCREDI-BLE!!
OOOH ...
WHAT IS THIS I'M FEELING...?
...HE'S ABSORBED QWAN'S POWER!
DON'T TELL ME...

Wherein Shaga Weeps and Ukitsu
Faces the Hair Monster



BUT IT IS IRRELEVANT! ALL OF THIS ENDS NOW!


YOU FELT FOR THAT MONSTER?! FITTING THAT HE SHOULD BE MOURNED BY THIEVES AND HARLOTS.


AND THE BOY'S AMBITION IS GONE AS WELL! HIS POWER IS OURS!

WE HAVE FINALLY EATEN YOU, STACHELESS!
NOW YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ANGER US!

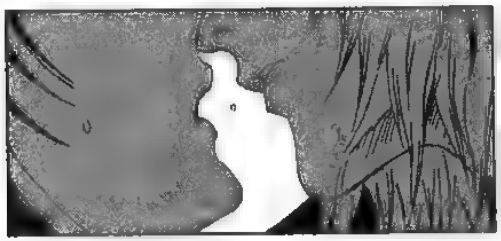
ALL HE WANTED WAS TO KNOW...

HE...
...KNEW NO AMBITION.

FWAT!
FWAT!
FWAT!

FWAT!

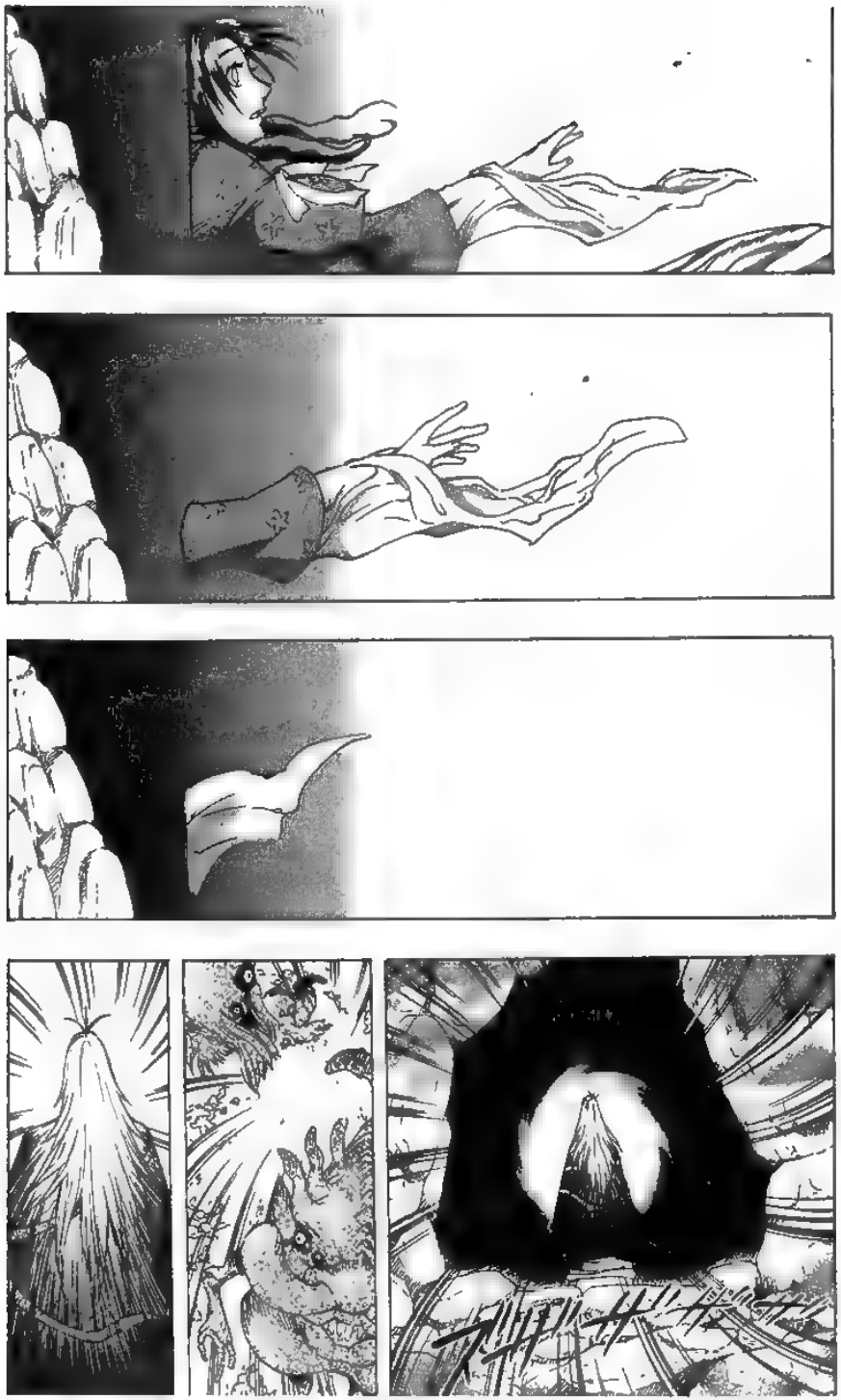
TAP
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!!



...AH!

I'VE WANTED TO DO THAT ALL DAY.
HEY...

BUT IF YOU DON'T LEAVE NOW, YOU'LL BE KILLED!
SHAGA, I WANT YOU TO GO FIRST!
BUT...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THOSE HAIRBALLS GET ME

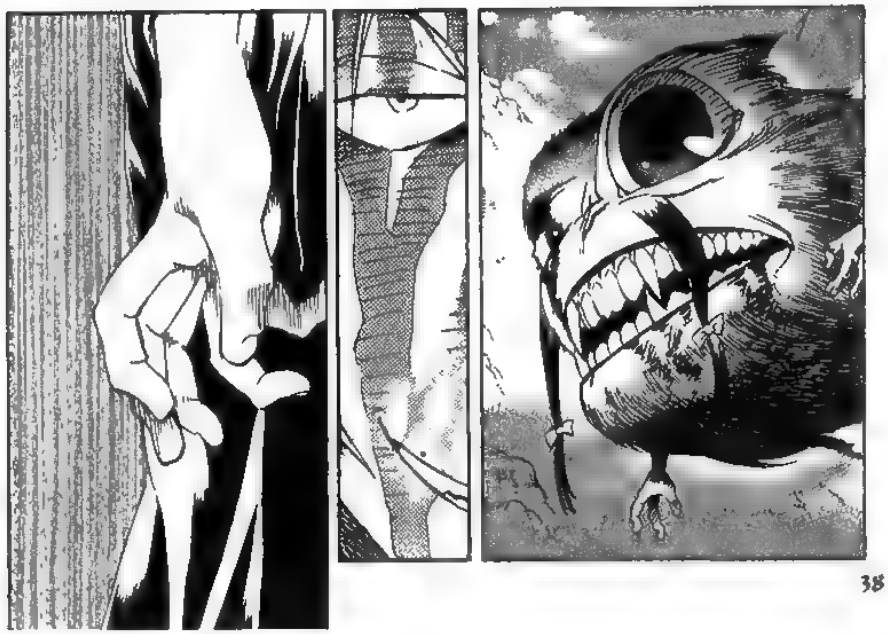


HOLD THAT THOUGHT, SWEETHEART. WE'LL TALK MORE LATER.

HE CANNOT BE CAUGHT WITH THE KNOW-LEDGE AND TECHNIQUES OF THE HUMAN WORLD.
HIS BODY POSSESSES AN INCREDIBLE POWER.
AND NOW I HAVE CONFIRMED IT.
THANKS TO YOU FURBALLS, I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT QWAN.
IT'S WHY I LET YOU LIVE THIS LONG.
SO THANK YOU.
!!

?!
I WANTED TO THANK YOU.
WHY DO YOU STAY?

BUT NOW I'M READY TO SHOW THOSE IN THE HEAVENS THE EXTENT OF THEIR FOOLISH-NESS.



GULP...!
GHEP!

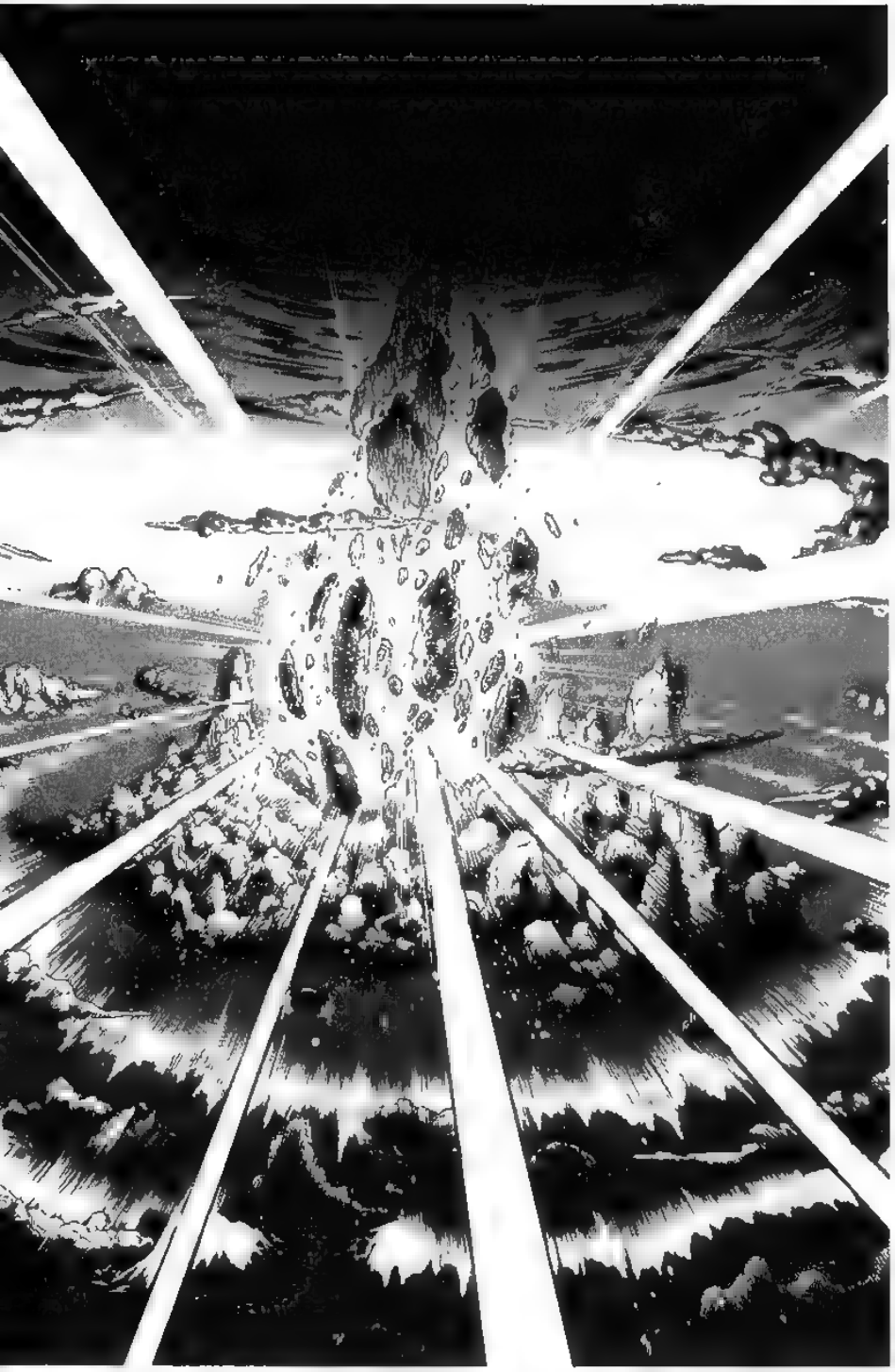
URGH...
URGH...
GWEHHH...
WILL YOU JUST SPIT GWAN OUT AND DIE ALREADY?!

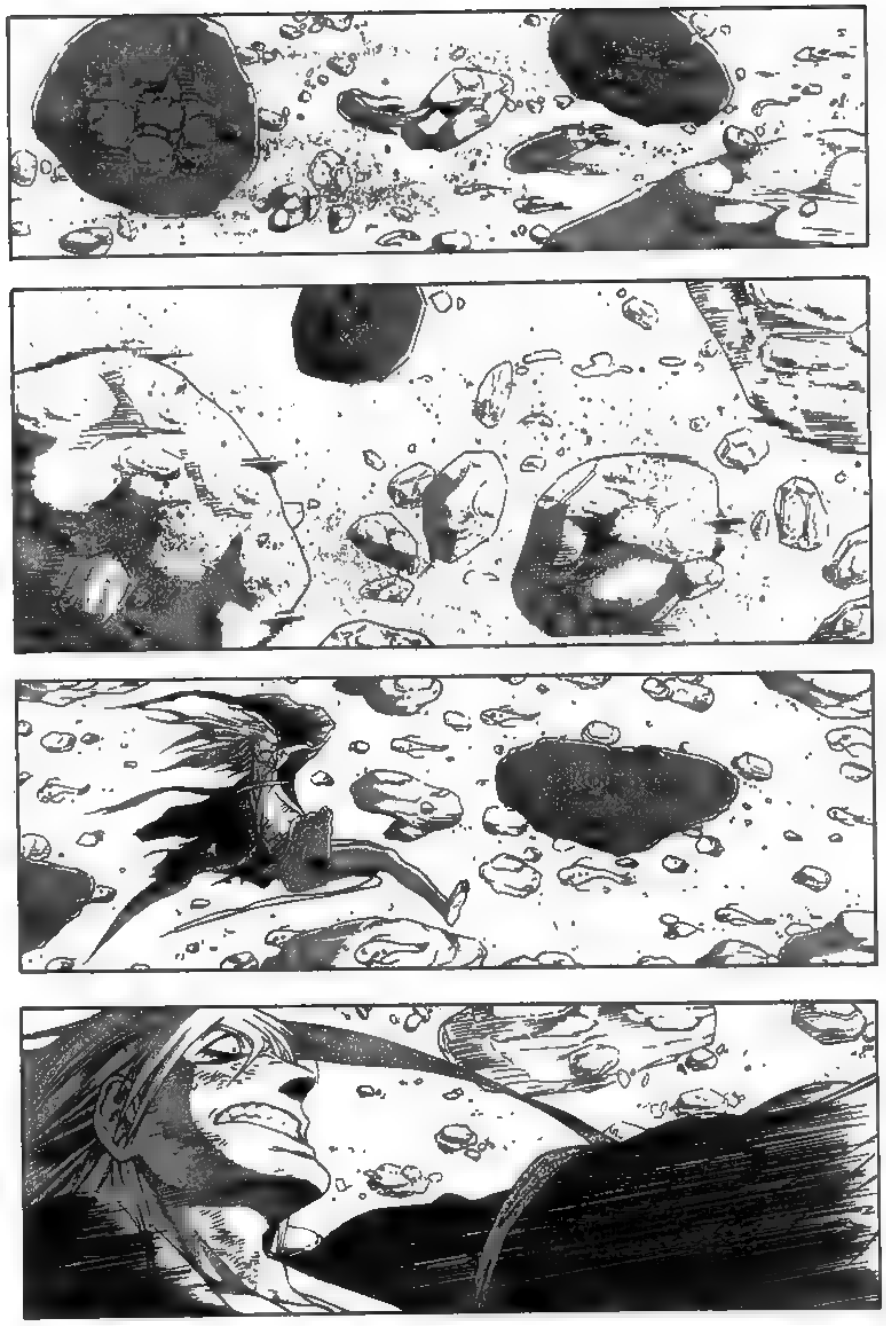
Wherein Qwan Loses Years and Power

NO...

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED. SO QWAN'S POWER GOES THAT DEEP...!
NO! AT THIS RATE, ALL OF GOLDEN TURTLE ISLAND WILL...

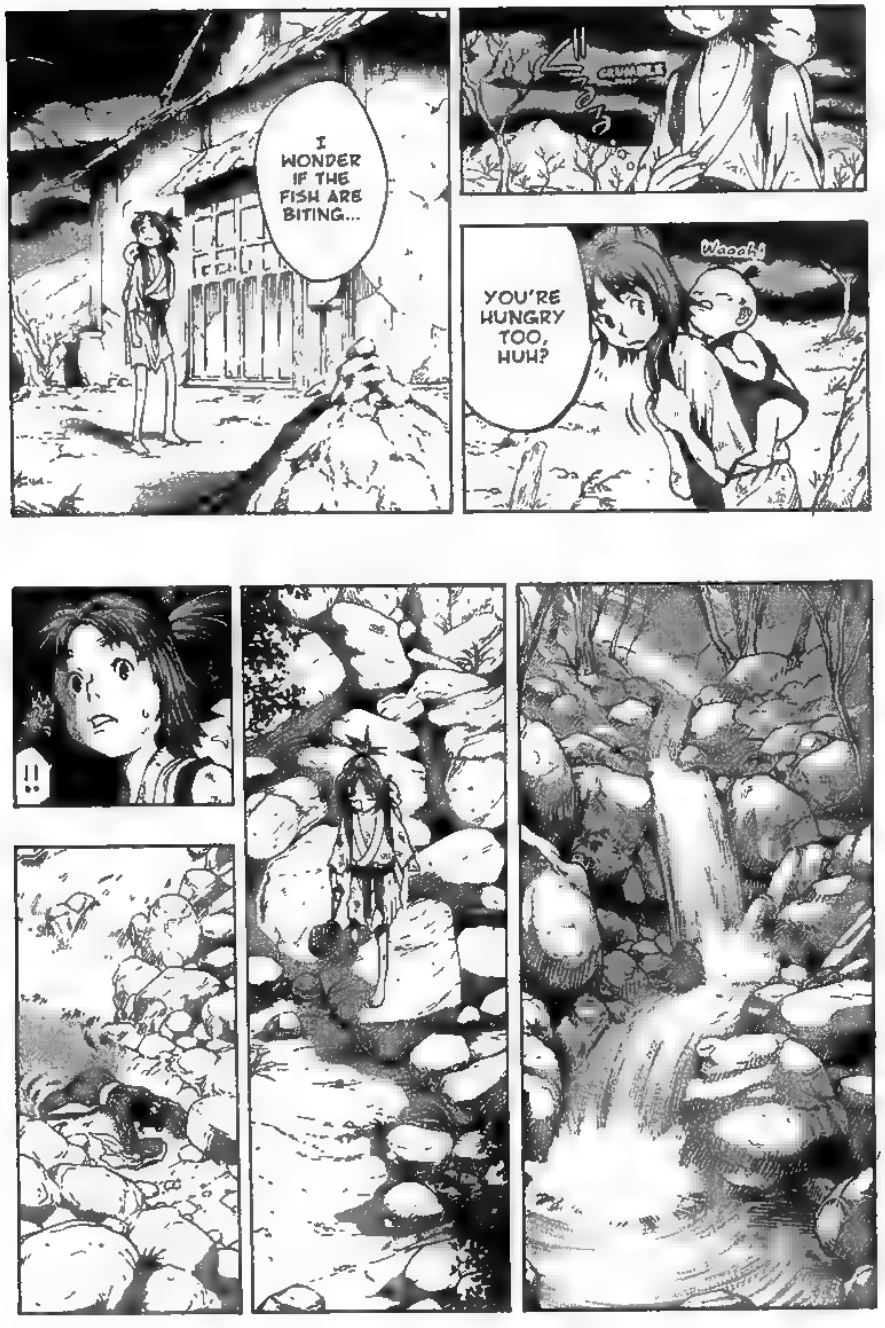
WHOOOSH...
SO NOT EVEN THE HAIRBALLS CAN WITHSTAND QWAN'S POWER?
H-HELP...





QWAN?!
QWAN HOLD ON!

QWAN...
MASTER


I WONDER IF THE FISH ARE BITING...
GRUMBLE
YOU'RE HUNGRY TOO, HUH?
Waaah!
!!

DAD... MOM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS ROYA.
ROYA? SO WE'RE ON EARTH...
UH...
gasp!
WAAAH!
AAH!
LADY, YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY.
THE YELLOW TURBANS MIGHT SHOW UP
THEY ALWAYS TAKE PRETTY WOMEN LIKE YOU FIRST.
UMM... HAVE YOU SEEN A YOUNG BOY ABOUT THIS TALL?
WHITE HAIR?
I SEE...
SHAKE
SHAKE
YELLOW TURBANS?
.....
YEAH. BAD GUYS WITH YELLOW SCARVES ON THEIR HEADS.
HEY! LET ME GO!
THAT VOICE-!

HEY, LITTLE BRAT!
WHAT'S THE IDEA, LOITERIN' AROUND HERE? DID THE IMPERIAL ARMY SEND YOU TO SPY ON US?!

WELL, WELL! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
NICE AND FEISTY!

STOP!

OH NO...!

?
?
!

SHE'S JUST LIKE THE TAOISTS IN THE CITY!

HIS POWER IS GONE.

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
WAIT... THE SEAL ON YOUR FOREHEAD IS GONE!
?!
.....
QWAN...
Ah!

OH... QWAN ...
.....
NOW WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?
WH-WHAT?
HEY!!

AND I'D JUST REMEMBERED, TOO.
I'D FINALLY REMEMBERED WHAT I HAD TO DO.
QWAN?!
AAAAAAH!!!

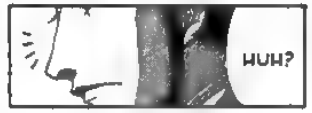
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD STAY AT MY PLACE!

AND IF WE HAD A WOMAN TAOIST WITH US--!
I MEAN, IF YOU HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO STAY!
THMP
THMP

THE YELLOW TURBANS KILLED MY PARENTS
IT'S NOT SAFE AROUND HERE.

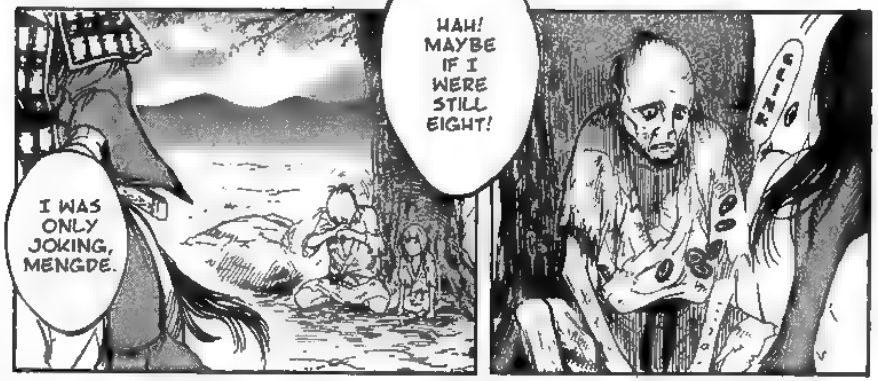
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU.
DO YOU KNOW OF A HERMIT NAMED UKITSU?
HOLD ON.
UH..

GRAND ELDER UKITSU? HE PASSED AWAY OVER A DECADE AGO.

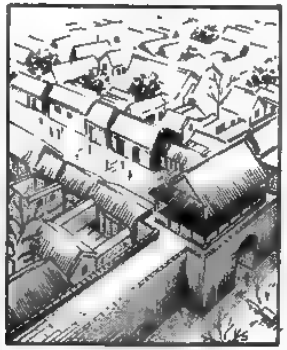


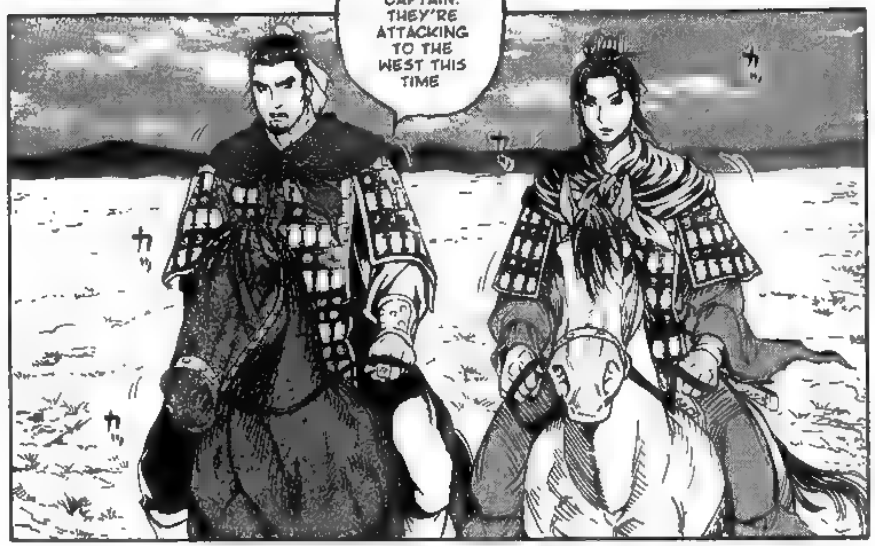
"Yuanrang. The respectful name of Xiahou Dun, a warrior of loyal servant

HM? SO YOU WOULD PREFER AMAN THEN?


I WAS ONLY JOKING, MENGDE.
HAH! MAYBE IF I WERE STILL EIGHT!
GRRR

HUH? WHAT'S IT SAY?
AGAIN? THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING A LOT.
PEOPLE KEEP HEARING IT WHEN THEY HAVE THEIR FORTUNES READ, TOO.

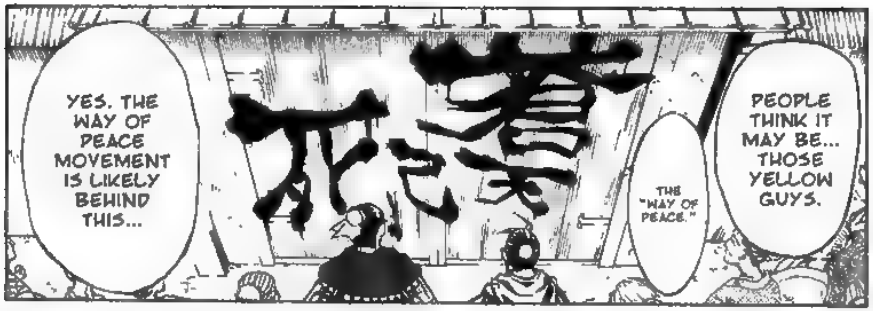



IT'S THEM AGAIN, CAPTAIN. THEY'RE ATTACKING TO THE WEST THIS TIME

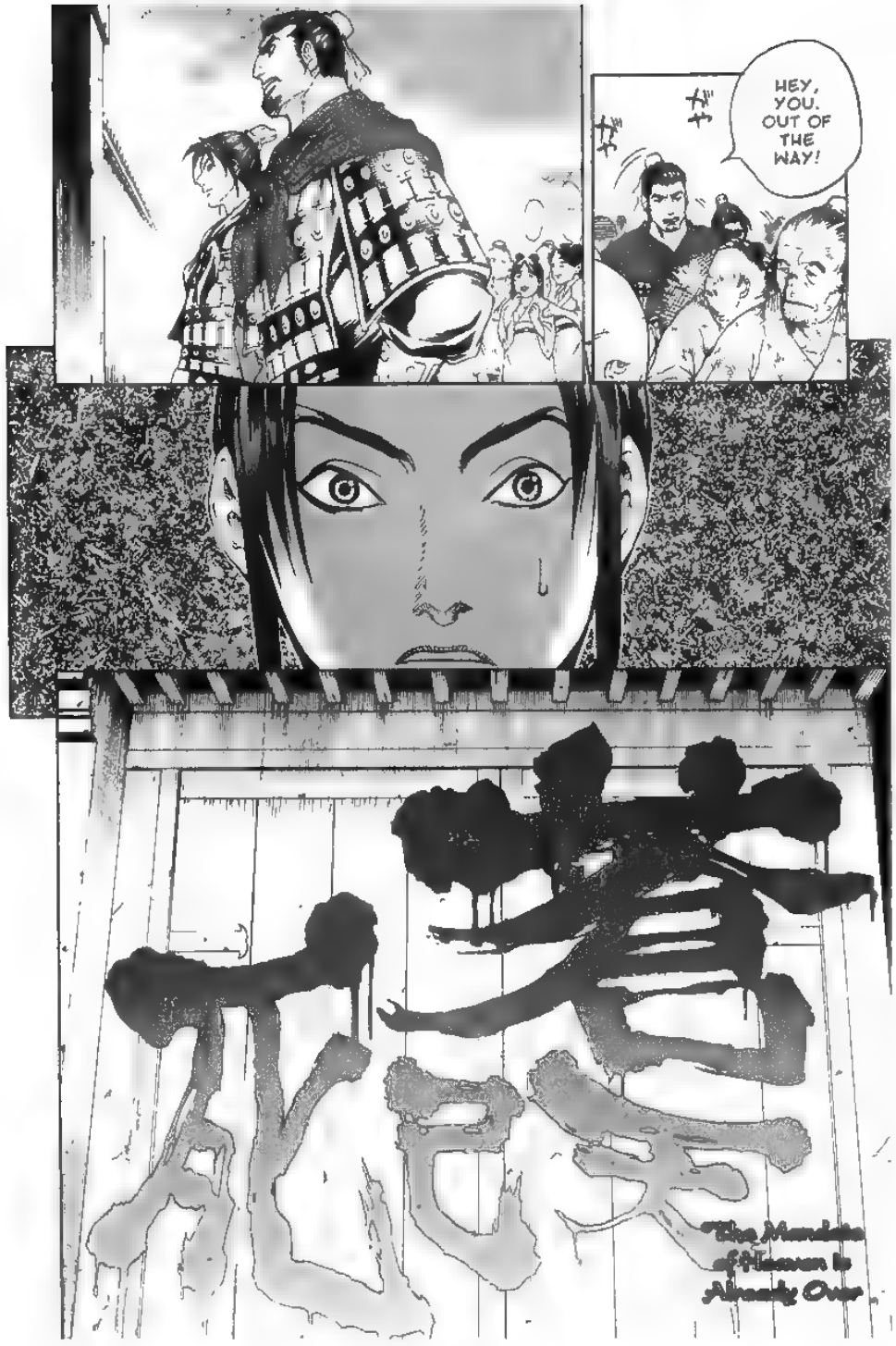
YUANRANG, PLEASE STOP CALLING ME "CAPTAIN."
CALL ME WHAT YOU USED TO CALL ME

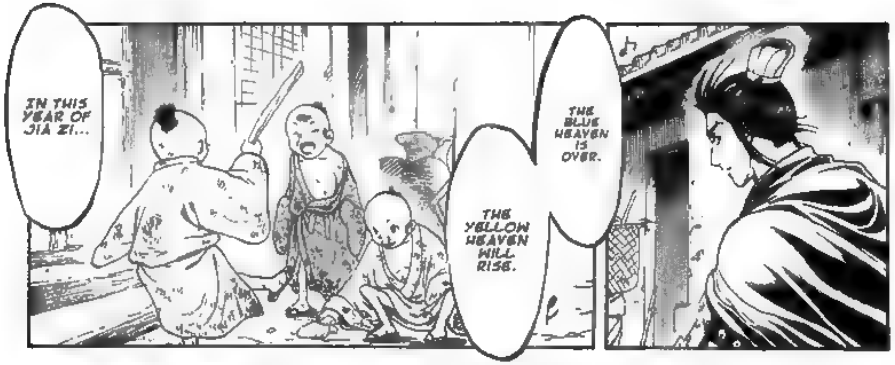
I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT THIS IS THE FIFTH TIME THIS MONTH.

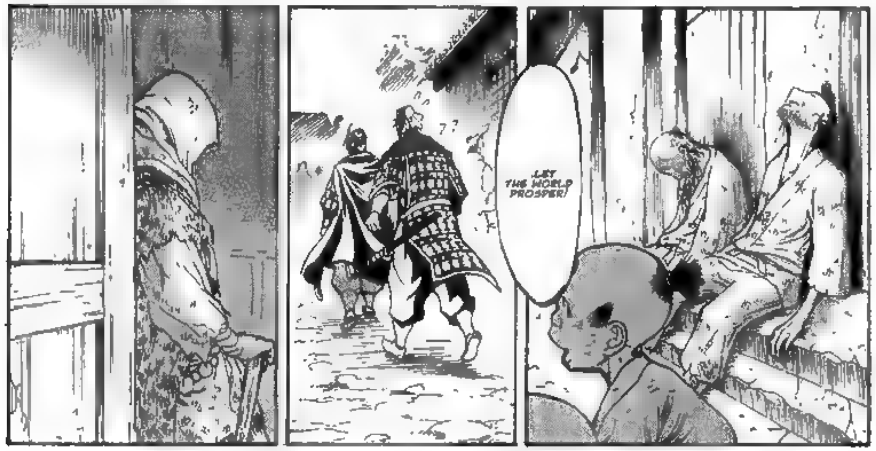
ALL THIS TALK OF "JIA ZI," THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW CALENDAR CYCLE.
THEY'VE BEEN PAINTING THAT ON PEOPLE'S DOORS.
IT'S SUPPOSEDLY SPREAD FAR BEYOND LUOYANG.
MANDATE OF HEAVEN... OVER...


PEOPLE THINK IT MAY BE... THOSE YELLOW GUYS.
THE "WAY OF PEACE."
YES. THE WAY OF PEACE MOVEMENT IS LIKELY BEHIND THIS...

..BUT WE HAVE NO PROOF.
whisper
whisper
...IT CAN'T BE.
HMM?


HEY, YOU. OUT OF THE WAY!
The Mandate of Heaven Is Already Over


IN THIS YEAR OF JIA ZI...
THE BLUE HEAVEN IS OVER.
THE YELLOW HEAVEN WILL RISE.


LET THE WORLD PROSPER!

HOLD ON, MENGDE!

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH ME?

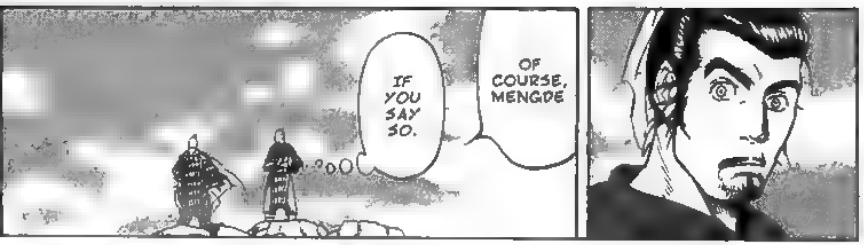
IN THIS YEAR OF JIA ZI...
THE BLUE HEAVEN IS OVER.
LET THE WORLD PROSPER!
THE YELLOW HEAVEN WILL RISE.

"THE BLUE HEAVEN IS OVER. THE YELLOW HEAVEN WILL RISE."
IT SOUNDS MYSTERIOUS, BUT THE MEANING IS CLEAR.
THE BLUE HEAVEN REFERS TO THE HEAVENS ABOVE US.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE WORLD OF HAN
WE REFER TO THE LAND OF HAN AS THE "WORLD UNDER THE HEAVENS." DO WE NOT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN THEY'RE PLOTTING A REBELLION?!
NEXT YEAR IS THE YEAR OF JIA ZI... SO THE ATTACK IS TO COME NEXT YEAR...!
"IN THIS YEAR OF JIA ZI, LET THE WORLD PROSPER."
YES. THEY ARE RALLYING THE TOWNSPEOPLE FOR THE REBELLION.

THE WAY OF PEACE...
THE YELLOW ELDERS WHO HEAL THE SICK HAVE BEEN PREACHING IT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.
IN THESE YEARS OF FAMINE AND STRIFE...
...THEIR WORDS HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH MANY.
BUT ALL THEY ARE IS A HANDFUL OF VAGABOND TAOISTS.

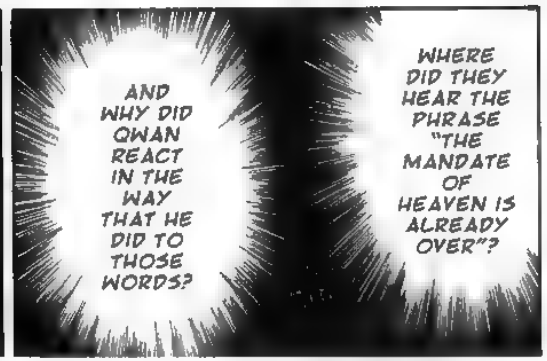
QWAN? ISN'T HE THAT WEIRD KID YOU HELPED STORM THE PALACE THAT ONE TIME?
AH,
QWAN...
ARE THEY STILL ALIVE? AND IF SO, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

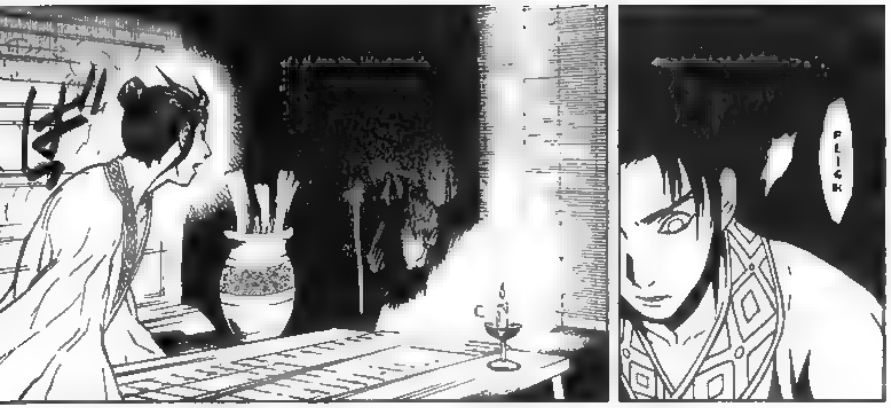
...NO. THAT WAS A STORY I MADE UP WHEN I WAS A KID.
COME ON. A BOY WHO ATE DEMONS AND COULD KILL AN OX WITH HIS BARE HANDS. ONE WHO VANISHED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES?


IF YOU SAY SO.
OF COURSE, MENGDE

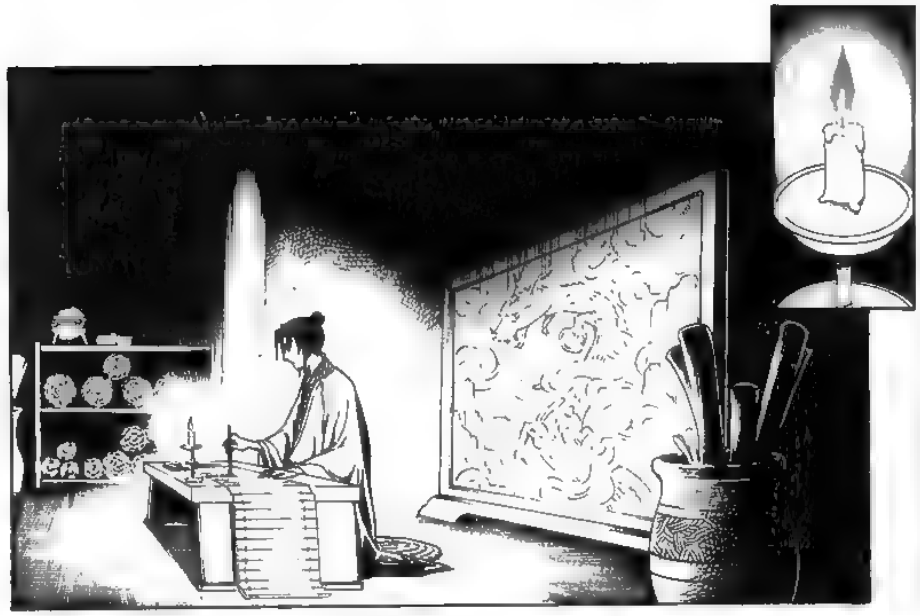
I GET THE FEELING THERE MAY BE ANOTHER MEANING, JUST BELOW THE SURFACE.
BUT...
BUT?

QWAN AND THE OTHERS VANISHED 17 YEARS AGO. I TRIED TO FIND THEM BUT THERE WAS NO TRACE.


AND WHY DID QWAN REACT IN THE WAY THAT HE DID TO THOSE WORDS?
WHERE DID THEY HEAR THE PHRASE "THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN IS ALREADY OVER"?

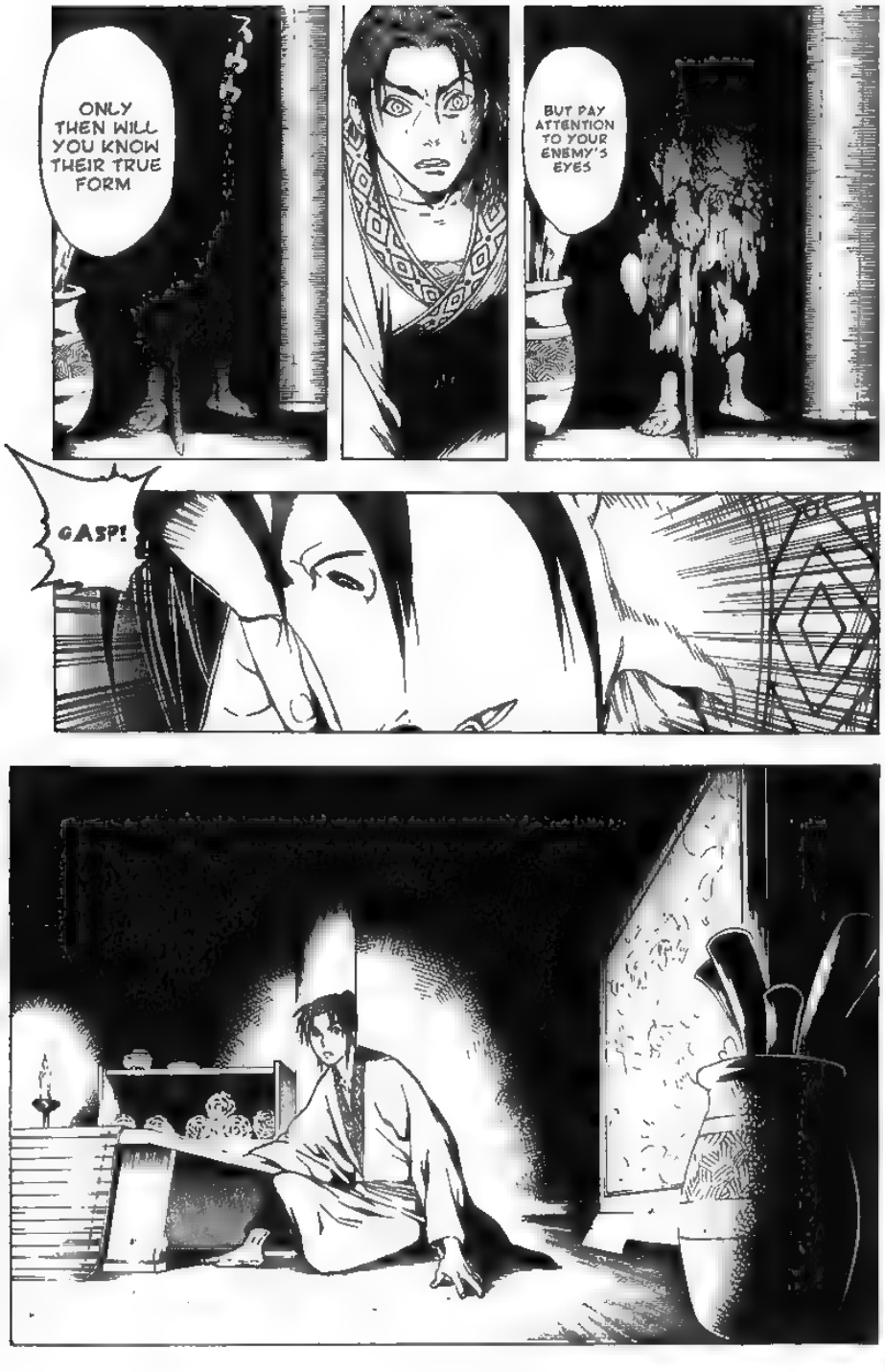

PEEK

WRITING THEM WILL NOT HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND THEIR TRUE MEANING



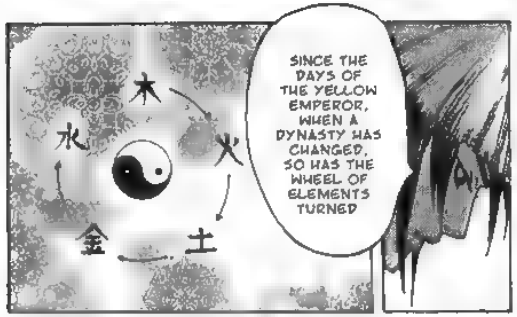
GWAN... THE WAY OF PEACE ..AND THESE FOUR CHARACTERS..
蒼天已死

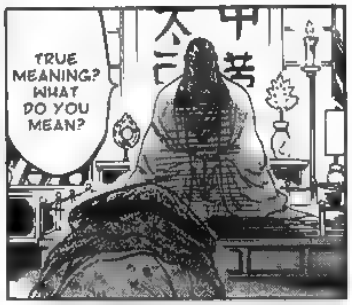
BLUE HEAVEN... YELLOW HEAVEN..
WHAT IS THEIR MEANING?
蒼天已死
黃天當立
歲在甲子
天下大吉

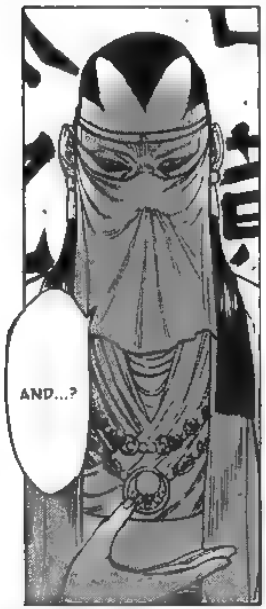

ONLY THEN WILL YOU KNOW THEIR TRUE FORM
BUT PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR ENEMY'S EYES
GASP!

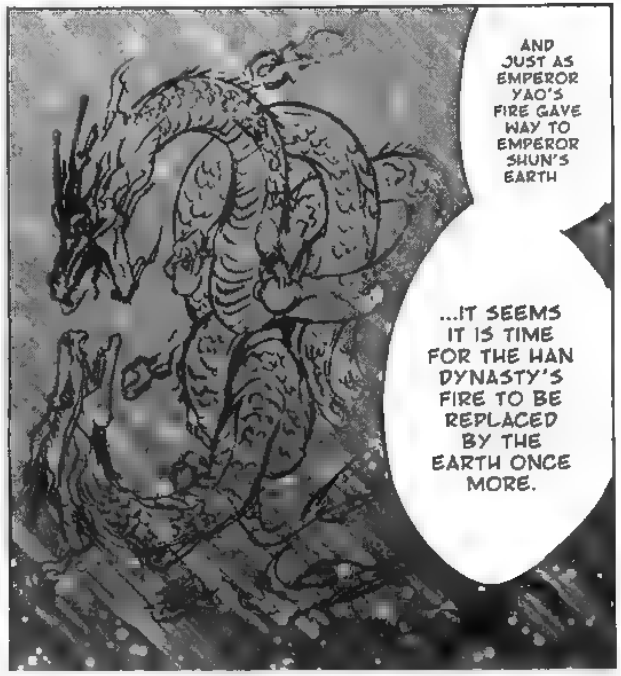
SHOULD YOU NOT LEARN THEIR TRUE MEANING BY READING THEM?
YOUR EYES CAN SEE AS WELL AS THE NEXT MAN'S.

"THE BLUE HEAVEN IS OVER, THE YELLOW HEAVEN WILL RISE"
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS.


木
火
土
金
水
SINCE THE DAYS OF THE YELLOW EMPEROR, WHEN A DYNASTY HAS CHANGED, SO HAS THE WHEEL OF ELEMENTS TURNED


TRUE MEANING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


AND...?


AND JUST AS EMPEROR YAO'S FIRE GAVE WAY TO EMPEROR SHUN'S EARTH
...IT SEEMS IT IS TIME FOR THE HAN DYNASTY'S FIRE TO BE REPLACED BY THE EARTH ONCE MORE.

中黄太乙
SO...
...WHAT TROUBLES YOU?

IF YOU WISH, I CAN TAKE YOU TO SEE THE GREAT TEACHER.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME? YOU HAVE A RARE GIFT.
YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT THE TRUE MEANING.
YOUR SEARCH IS OVER.

YOU NEED ONLY TELL ME YOUR NAME...
Ah!

AS SUCH, I WONDER IF THE GREAT TEACHER OF THE WAY OF PEACE IS SLATED TO BE THE ONE WHO WILL REBUILD THE WORLD OF HAN.
EARTH'S COLOR IS, AFTER ALL, YELLOW.
I THINK... THE WAY OF PEACE AND THE YELLOW ELDERS CAN TEACH ME HOW THIS WILL COME TO PASS.

AND THE IMPERIAL PALACE IS RIFE WITH CORRUPTION TO WHICH THE EMPEROR HIMSELF HAS GIVEN WAY.
THE MINISTRY TAKES FROM THE PEOPLE TO FEED ITS OWN BELLY.
IS THERE ANY FUTURE FOR HAN?
Ha!
YOUR INSIGHT BELIES YOUR YEARS
THIS IS WHAT I CAME TO CONFIRM.

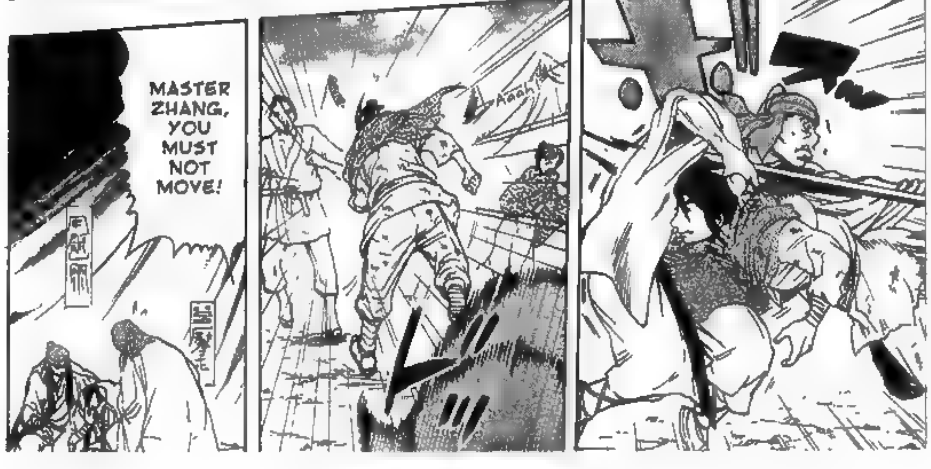
AaaAagh!
What the-
ARREST THAT MAN! HE ATTACKED MASTER ZHANG BAO!

HIS EYES!
"ONLY THEN WILL YOU KNOW THEIR TRUE FORM."

AAAAH!!

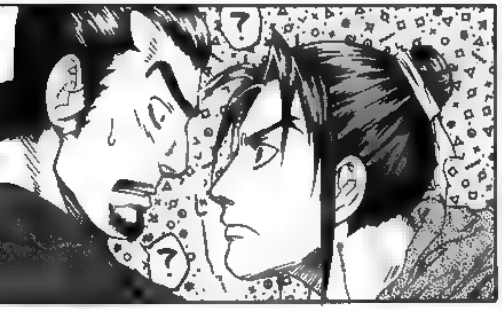
HE FOCUSED STRAIGHT INTO MY EYES.
WHO IS HE...?

I AM NOT HURT. A PROPERLY MAINTAINED BODY CANNOT FALL TO TREACHER-OUS HANDS


MASTER ZHANG, YOU MUST NOT MOVE!
Aaah!

?!

MENGDE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
AND WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE A PEASANT?


?
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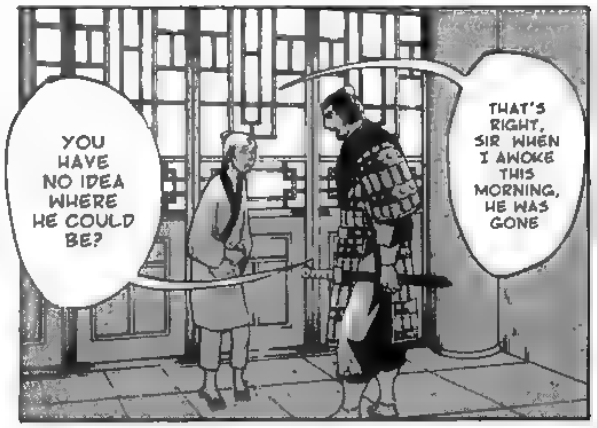
?

WHAT THE DEVIL HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU, MENGDE?!
EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

IT CAN'T BE.


YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE COULD BE?
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR WHEN I AWOKE THIS MORNING, HE WAS GONE

MENGDE ISN'T HERE?!

SLAM!

MENGDE?!

Wherein Shaga Attempts a Peaceful Life

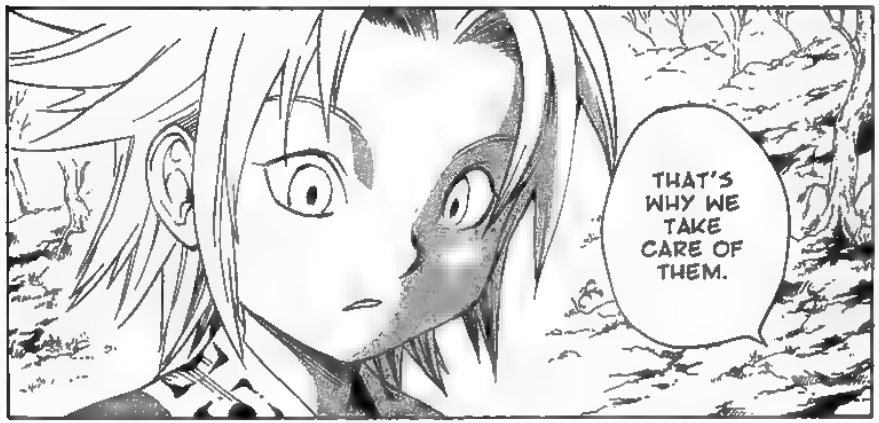
YUANRANG, I THINK I FINALLY UNDER-STAND THE CONNEC-TION..
..BETWEEN QWAN, THE WAY OF PEACE, AND THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN

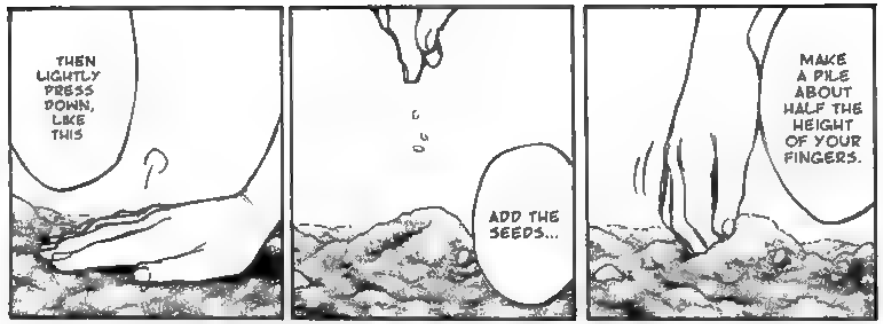
!

THIS IS GOOD!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM, BUT THIS IS HOW WE GROW FOOD HERE.
...BUT IT WILL GROW.

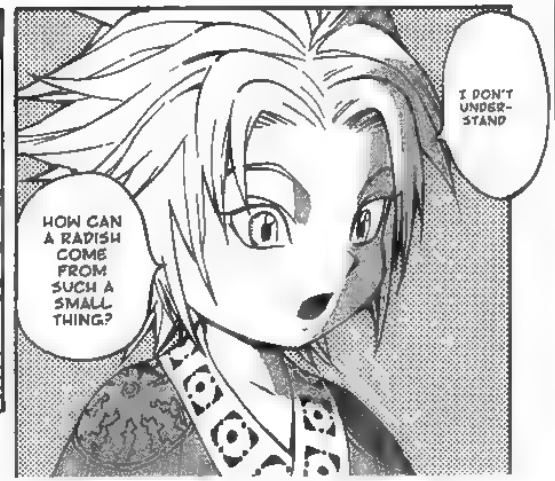
...THESE SEEDS NEED EARTH AND WATER, OR THEY'LL DIE.
LIVING THINGS HAVE TO EAT OR THEY'LL DIE. SO IN THE SAME WAY...

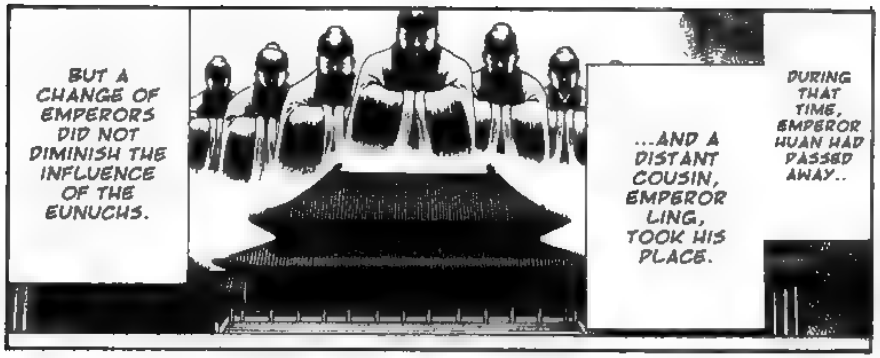

THAT'S WHY WE TAKE CARE OF THEM.


THEN LIGHTLY PRESS DOWN, LIKE THIS
ADD THE SEEDS...
MAKE A PILE ABOUT HALF THE HEIGHT OF YOUR FINGERS.

OUR FIELDS WERE RANSACKED BY THE YELLOW GUYS, SO WE HAVE TO PLANT SOMETHING IF WE WISH TO EAT.
WE CAN HAVE RADISHES.
WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO?
GOT IT? NOW YOU TRY.

A RADISH IS BIGGER THAN THIS SEED...

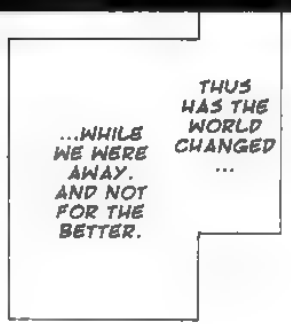

HOW CAN A RADISH COME FROM SUCH A SMALL THING?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND


BUT A CHANGE OF EMPERORS DID NOT DIMINISH THE INFLUENCE OF THE EUNUCHS.
...AND A DISTANT COUSIN, EMPEROR LING, TOOK HIS PLACE.
DURING THAT TIME, EMPEROR HUAN HAD PASSED AWAY..

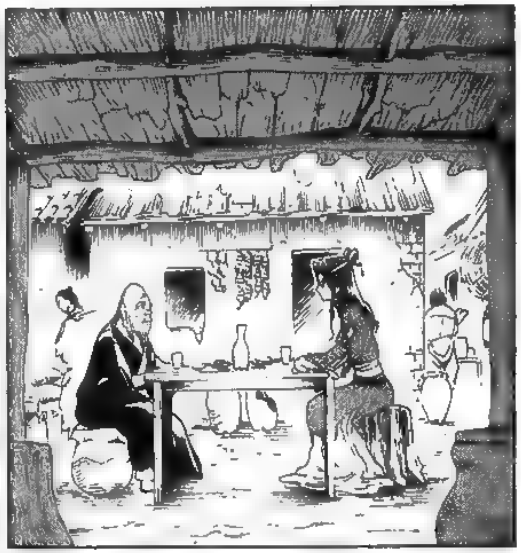
FACED WITH SUCH HARDSHIP...
...THEY TURNED TO A NEW SET OF BELIEFS.
NATURAL DISASTER AND FAMINE MADE LIVES MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PEASANTS.

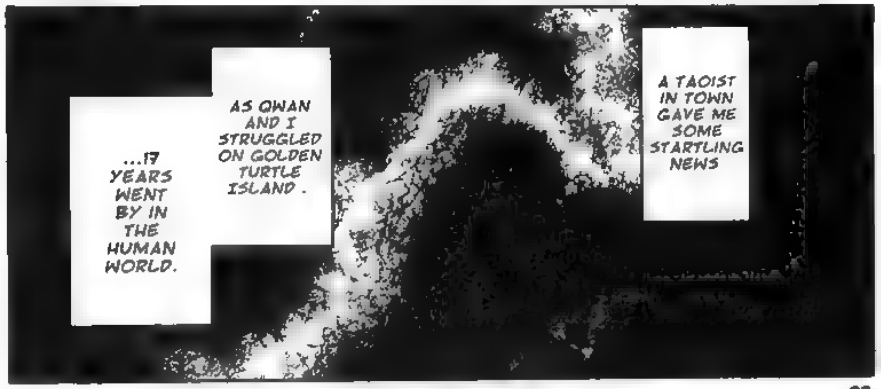
...THE "WAY OF PEACE." THE RELIGION'S FOLLOWERS PROMISED TO HEAL THE WORLD.. AND HAD ACCUMULATED ENOUGH POWER TO LEND SUBSTANCE TO THE CLAIM.
"TAI PING DAO"...

YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME A GREAT DEAL.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


...WHILE WE WERE AWAY. AND NOT FOR THE BETTER.
THUS HAS THE WORLD CHANGED ...

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
THE SIXTH YEAR OF GUAN-GHE'?!




...17 YEARS WENT BY IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
AS OWAN AND I STRUGGLED ON GOLDEN TURTLE ISLAND .
A TAOIST IN TOWN GAVE ME SOME STARTLING NEWS

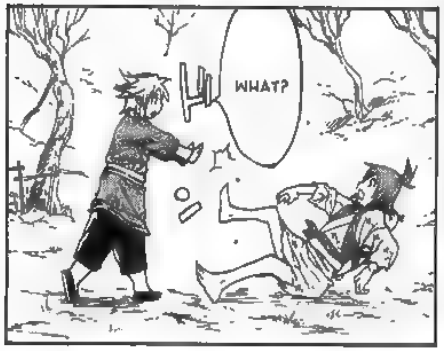
THE WORLD HAS CHANGED
..FOR THE WORSE.
BUT EVEN AFTER 17 YEARS, THE PEOPLE GO ABOUT
..AS IF NOTHING HAS CHANGED
...AND NOW HE IS A MERE SHELL, WITH NONE OF HIS FORMER POWER.
AND QWAN! THE HEAVENS SENT HIM TO CLEANSE THE MORTAL WORLD...
THIS TIME, QWAN HAS TRULY FALLEN TO EARTH
HE HAS BECOME MORTAL.

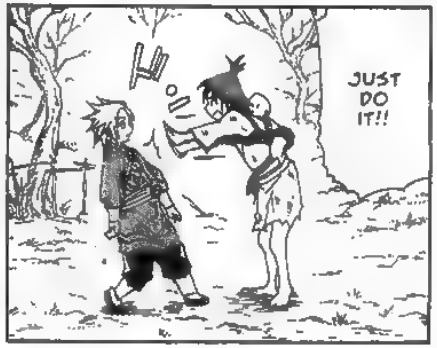
I AM HERE OFTEN. FEEL FREE TO DROP IN...
...IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS.
ANOTHER ROUND, PLEASE?
COMIN' UP!
I CAN'T REFUSE A BEAUTY LIKE YOU!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SORRY?
IT'S WHAT YOU SAY WHEN YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!
YOU SAY YOU'RE SORRY!!
WHY?

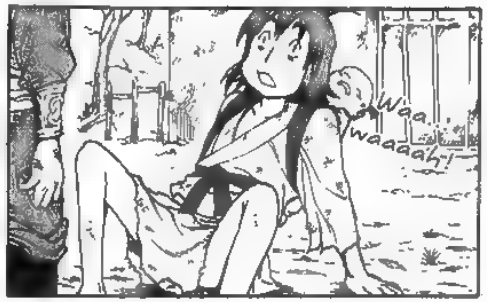
?

.....
WELL?! SAY YOU'RE SORRY!!


WHAT?


JUST DO IT!!

!!!


Waa.. waaaah!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

AAAAAAAAH!!

I GOT HUNGRY.

JUST BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO EAT DOESN'T MEAN--OH, WHAT'S THE USE?
THAT CHICKEN WAS FOR LAYING EGGS!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

わあああああ
HAAAAAH!!!
I'M BACK!
STOP IT, QWÁN!
SHE STARTED IT.
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
CH-CH-
Hic!
Y-YOU--
NO!
Hic!
CHICKEN!
Hyaah!

YOU'D PROBABLY BE SURPRISED IF I TOLD YOU MY AGE.
REALLY? HOW OLD ARE YOU?
OH, REALLY?
Thank you
YOUR SKIN IS BEAUTIFUL, SHAGA.
IT'S SO WHITE AND SHINY.
.....

ARE YOU...AN ANGEL? FROM HEAVEN?
?!
LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY... I'M ABOUT THE AGE OF YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

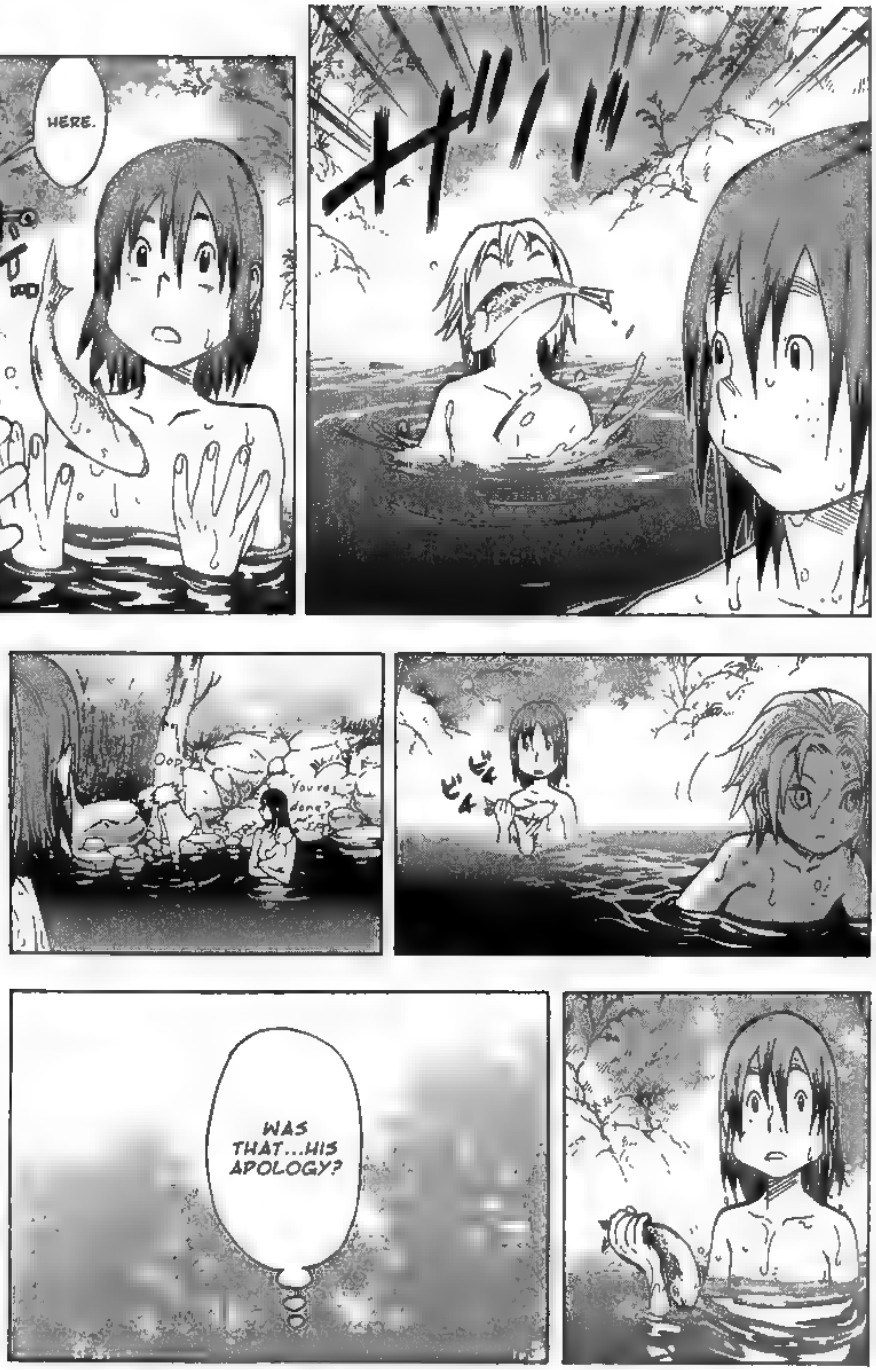
BLUSH!
WELL... HOW SHALL I PUT THIS ..
whisper
whisper
ART OF THE BEDROOM?
I JUST USE THE ART OF THE BEDROOM, THAT'S ALL.
I WISH!
I'M AS HUMAN AS YOU ARE

Ah' Ah'
Aah

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT WASN'T LAYING MANY EGGS ANYWAY.

grmbl
grmbl

RYAN... I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.


BUT IT'S NOT A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE. YOU NEED PROPER TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE.
IT ENHANCES PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH. IN THE PAST EMPERORS TRIED USING IT TO GAIN IMMORTALITY
MOST DON'T REALIZE IT. BUT THE UNION BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO CHANNEL THAT ENERGY
IS A TECHNIQUE THAT BALANCES ONE'S ENERGY BETWEEN YIN AND YANG
THE ART OF THE BEDROOM...
BUT IMMORTALITY IS NOT ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.

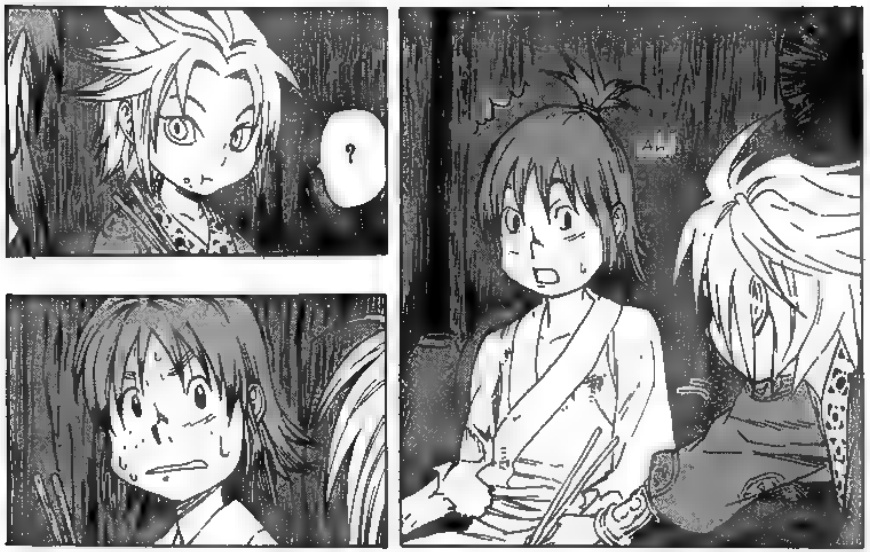
HERE.
You're done?
WAS THAT...HIS APOLOGY?

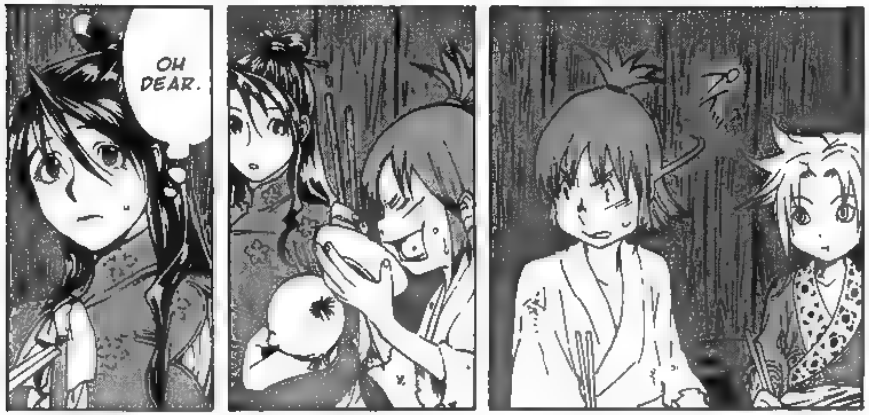
LET US PARTAKE!

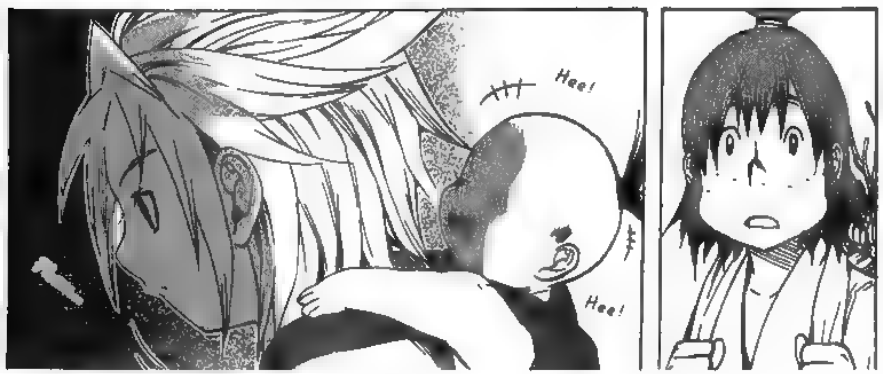
WHAT DO YOU DO FOR MONEY?
BUT .. YOU KEEP GOING TO THE CITY, AND I KNOW YOU HAVE TO BUY THINGS.

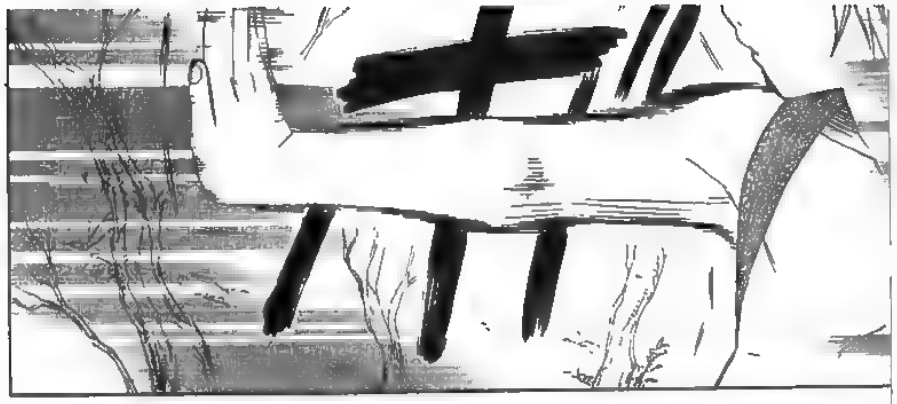
WE HAVE EATEN WELL EVERY DAY SINCE YOU'VE COME HERE, SISTER
YOU CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU WISH!
REALLY? THANK YOU.

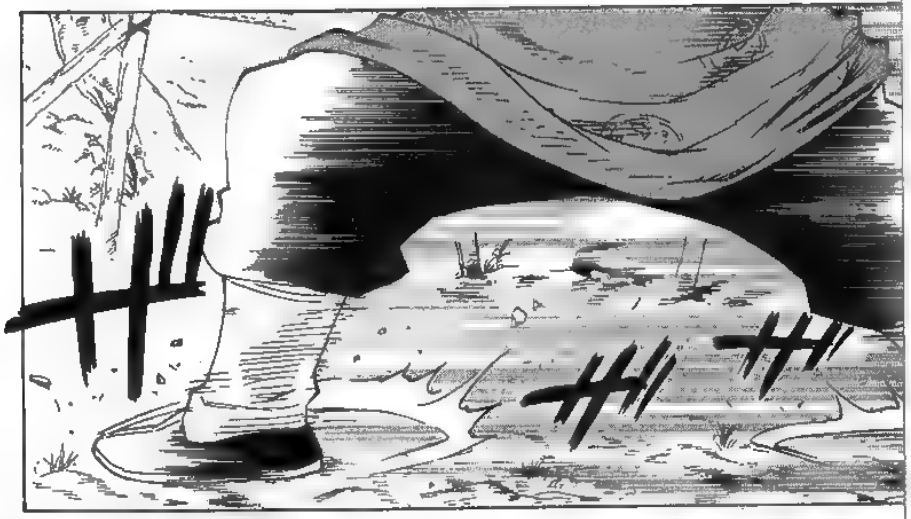
CHILDREN SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

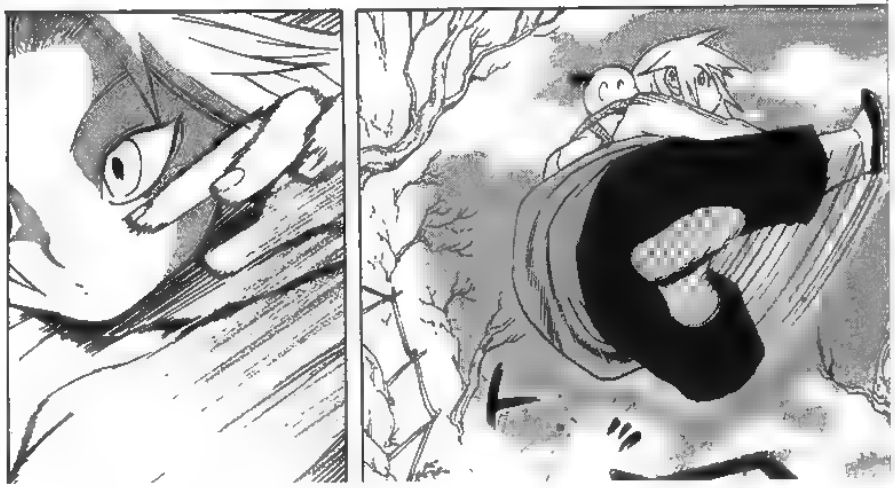

?
AH


OH DEAR.


Hee!
Hee!

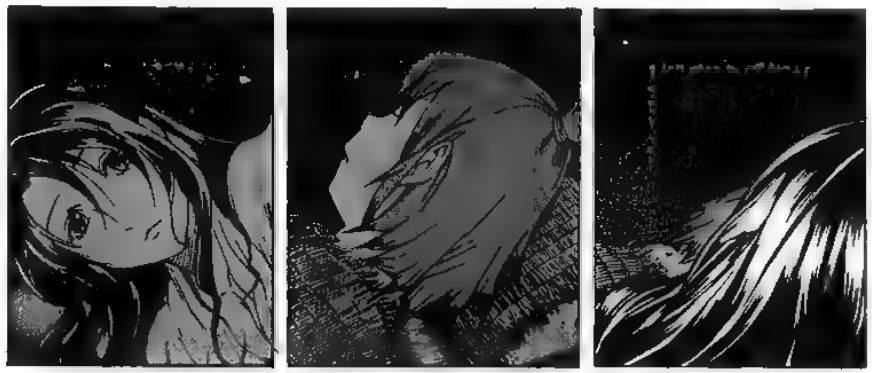


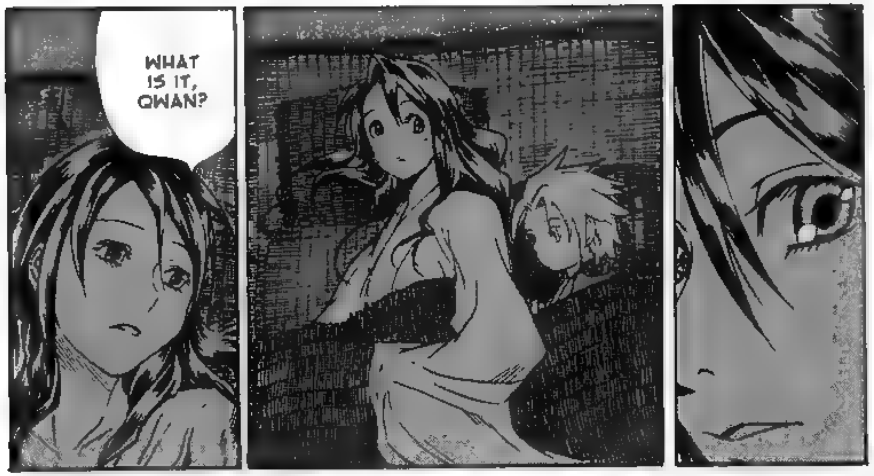




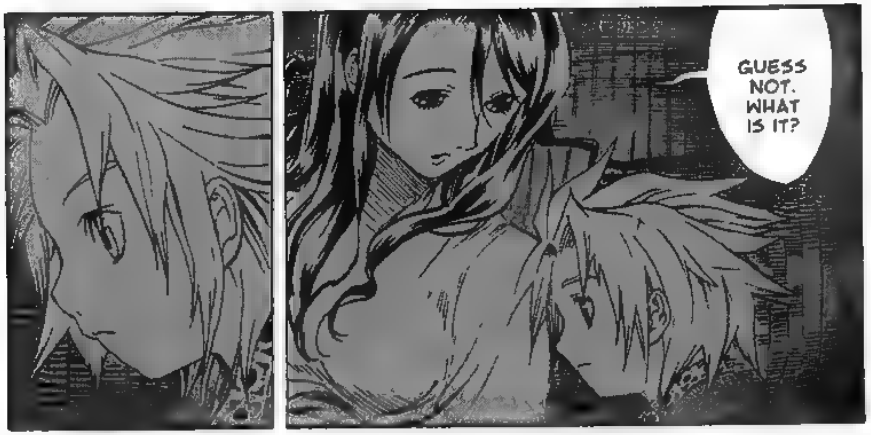
HOW MANY YEARS SINCE MY HUSBAND AND CHILDREN FELL ILL?

I CAN'T MOVE HALF AS WELL AS I USED TO.
IT'S NO USE.
BEING HUMAN STINKS.
.....



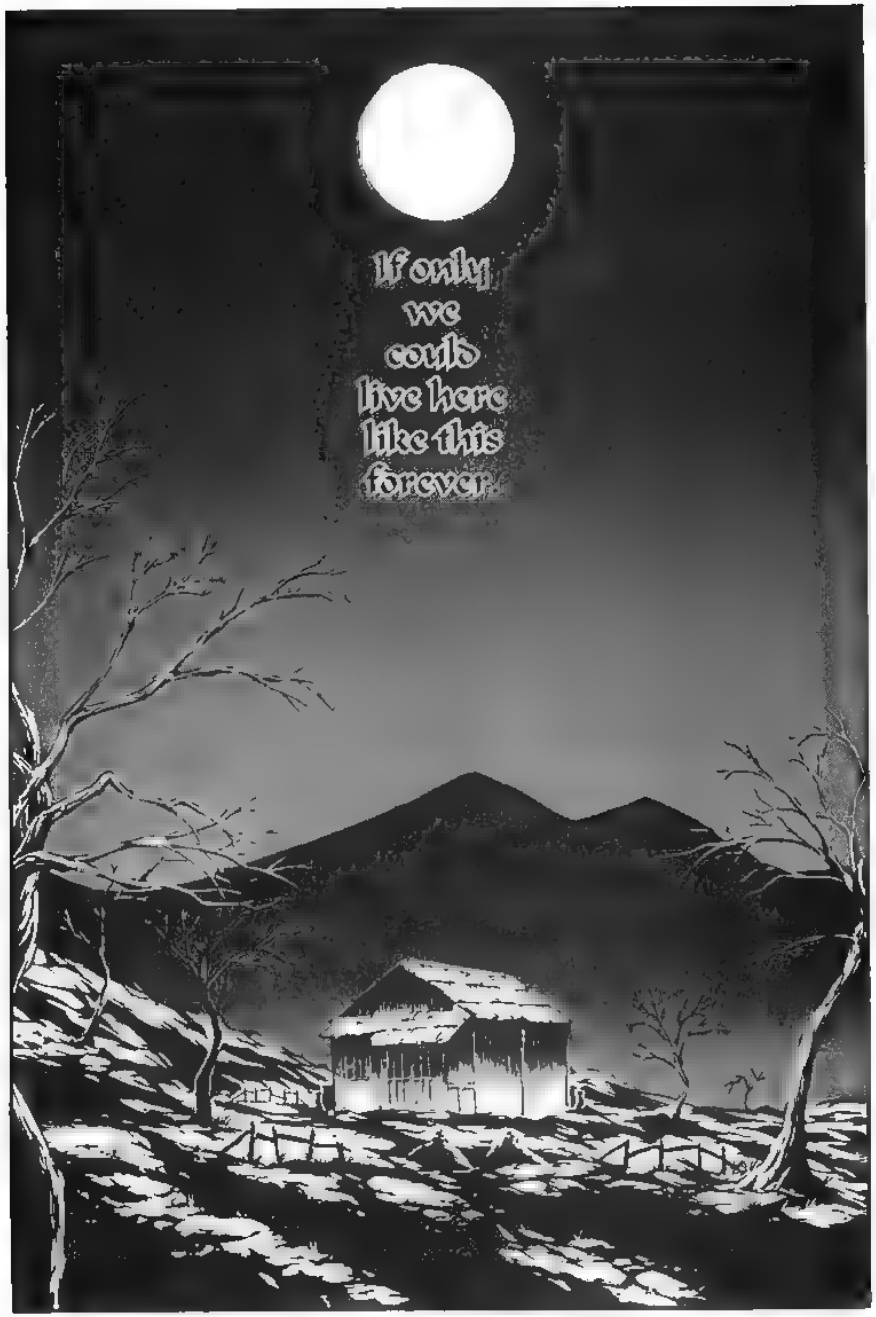

WHAT IS IT, OWAN?

DO YOU NEED TO GO PEE?
I... UH...
.....


GUESS NOT. WHAT IS IT?

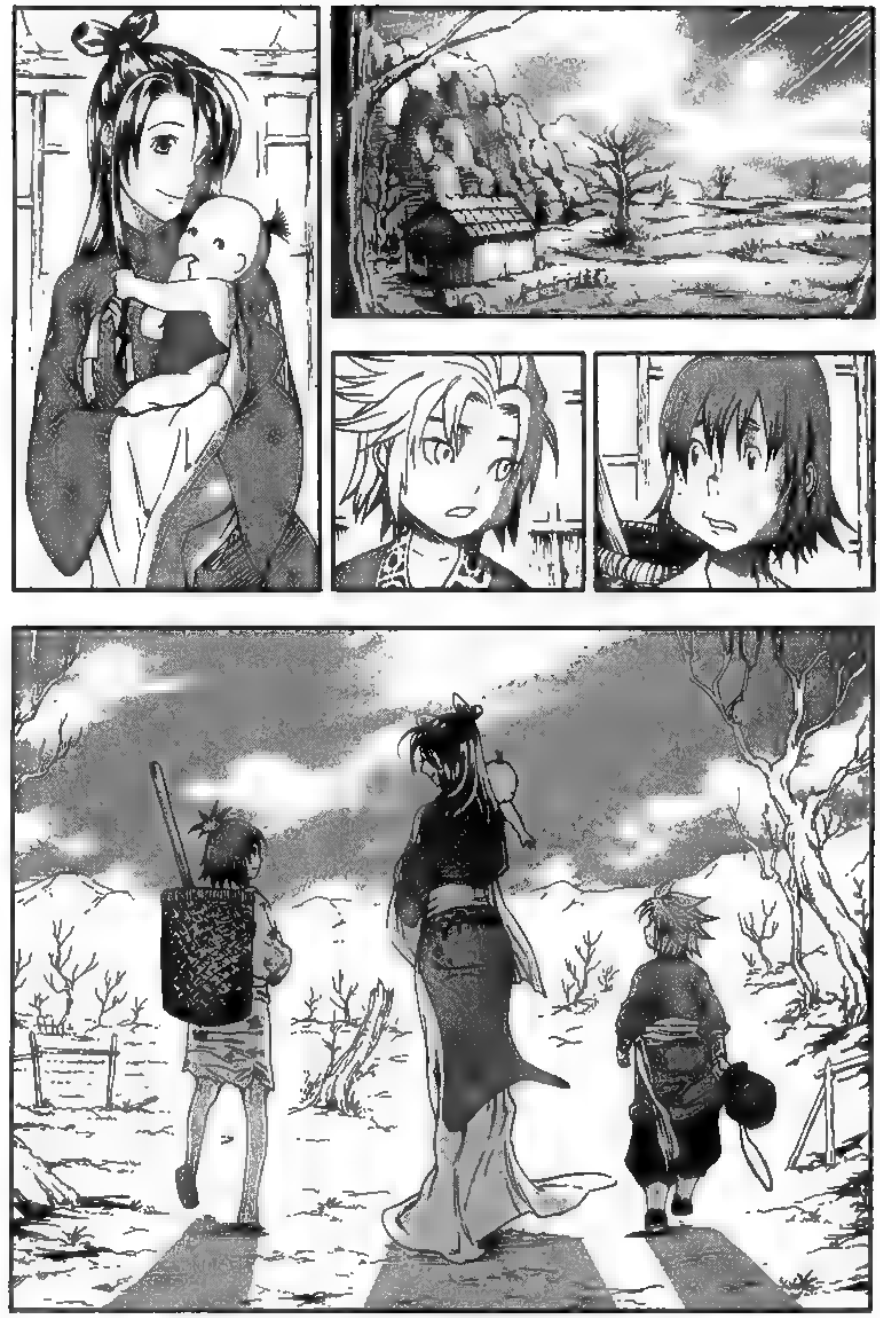
I...
...WANT TO KNOW... WHAT I SHOULD DO.

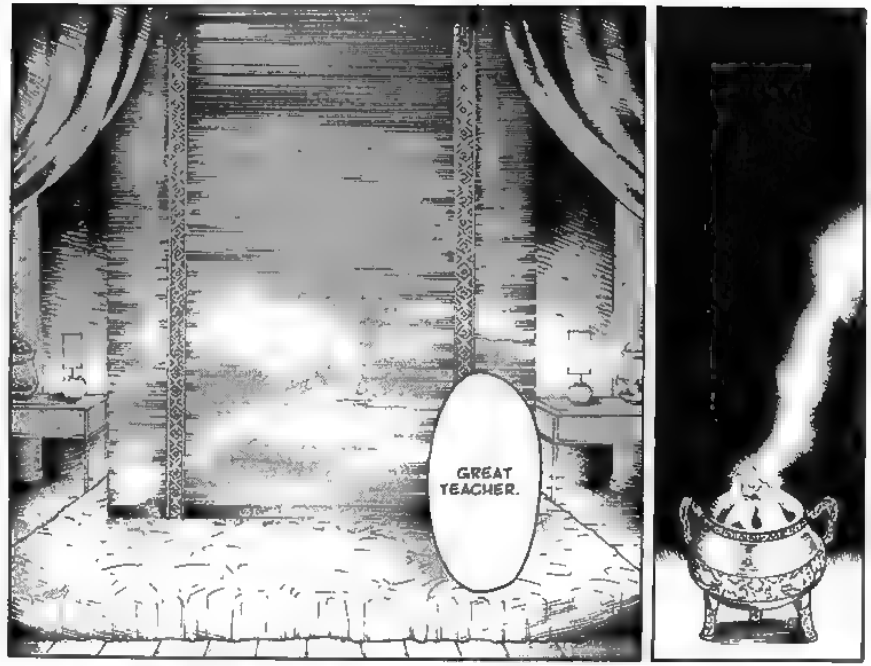
EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, QWAN.
Hug
YOU ARE NOT THE WILL OF HEAVEN ANYMORE
YOU CAN LIVE HOWEVER YOU'D LIKE NOW.
AND I WILL PROTECT YOU.
.ALL RIGHT?



IF ONLY...

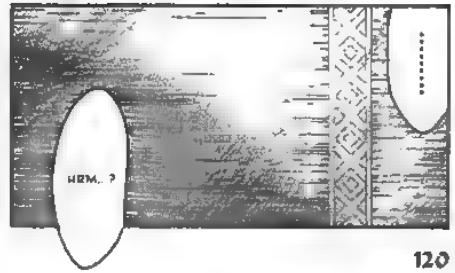
Wherein the New Will of Heaven
Seeks to Replace Qwan



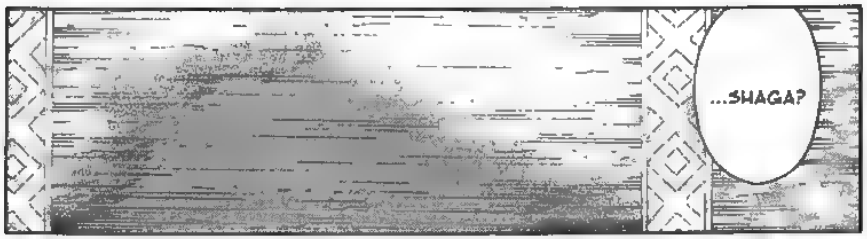

GREAT TEACHER.

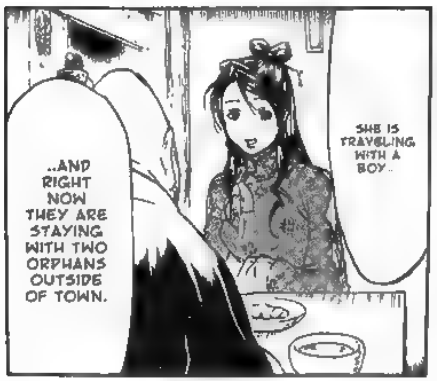
IT IS A PUZZ-LING MATTER
THIS MAN HAD A CONVER-SATION WITH A SUSPICIOUS TAOIST WOMAN.

SOMEONE FROM TOWN WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU. I BELIEVE YOU'LL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.


.....
HRM. ?

HER NAME WAS SHAGA.


...SHAGA?


..AND RIGHT NOW THEY ARE STAYING WITH TWO ORPHANS OUTSIDE OF TOWN.
SHE IS TRAVELING WITH A BOY..

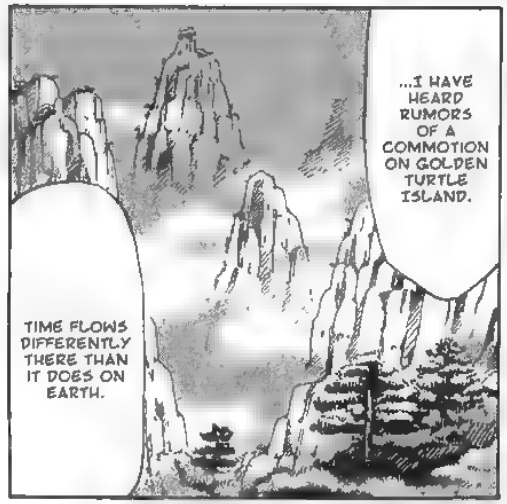
YES. IT SEEMED SHE HAD BEEN OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE HUMAN WORLD FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.
SHE ASKED ME CURIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR RECENT HISTORY.

I UNDERSTAND, GREAT TEACHER.
THAT IS WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR.
NNN... BAO...

WE SHALL ERASE THE WILL OF HEAVEN, WHO HAS FORGOTTEN HIS OWN PURPOSE...

...AND IN SO DOING, WE WILL BECOME THE NEW WILL OF HEAVEN.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT WHERE THEY WERE?
BUT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEWHERE THESE PAST TEN YEARS
.....


...I HAVE HEARD RUMORS OF A COMMOTION ON GOLDEN TURTLE ISLAND.
TIME FLOWS DIFFERENTLY THERE THAN IT DOES ON EARTH.

I'M SORRY... I DID NOT ASK

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT

IF THIS WOMAN AND CHILD HAVE BEEN TO GOLDEN TURTLE ISLAND..
...WE MUST FIND THEM.

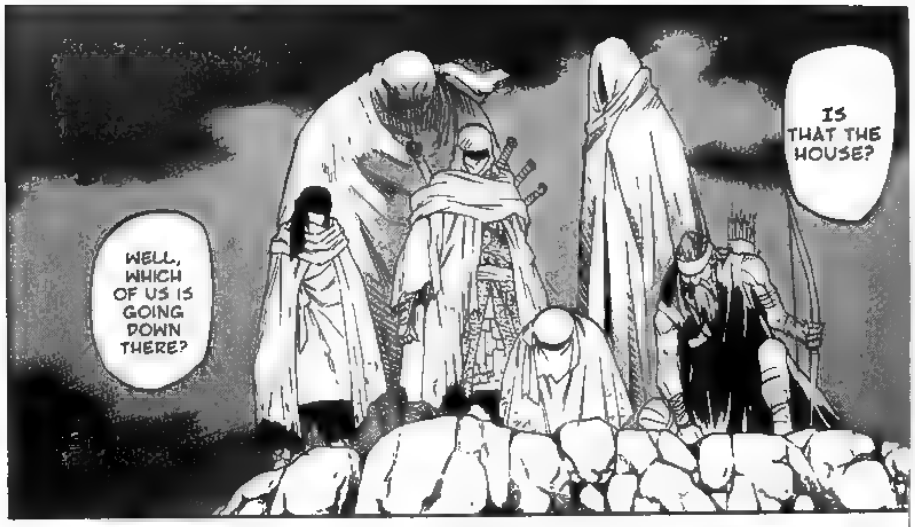
I DO NOT KNOW YOU, STACHE-LESS!!
LIAR!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AND WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME AROUND?
I- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
HUH? IS THAT YOU, HIGE!?!
KYAAAHH!!
HUH?!
AH!!
NOPE! NOT BUYING IT!
OUR PATHS JUST HAPPENED TO CROSS, OKAY?!
SOMEONE YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?
THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO SHOW YOU!!
AH WAH WAH...!

??
?
DAMN. I'VE LOST HIM.

ARE YOU MAD?! WE'RE NOT ANIMALS!
I'LL START WITH THE GIRLS!

ENOUGH. DO WHAT YOU LIKE, HUANG QUE!

PH.


WELL, WHICH OF US IS GOING DOWN THERE?
IS THAT THE HOUSE?

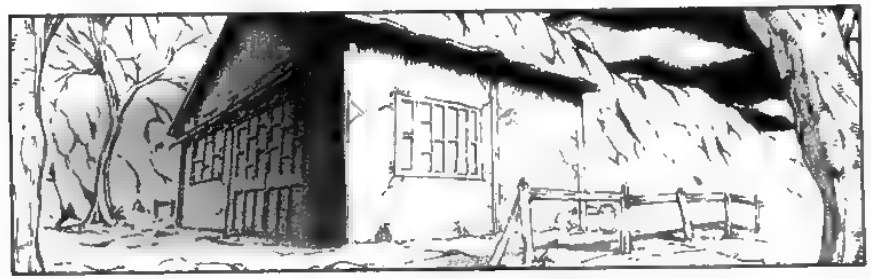
...WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH WAY HE WILL STRIKE.
IF IT'S HIM...
IT SEEMS TOO QUIET.

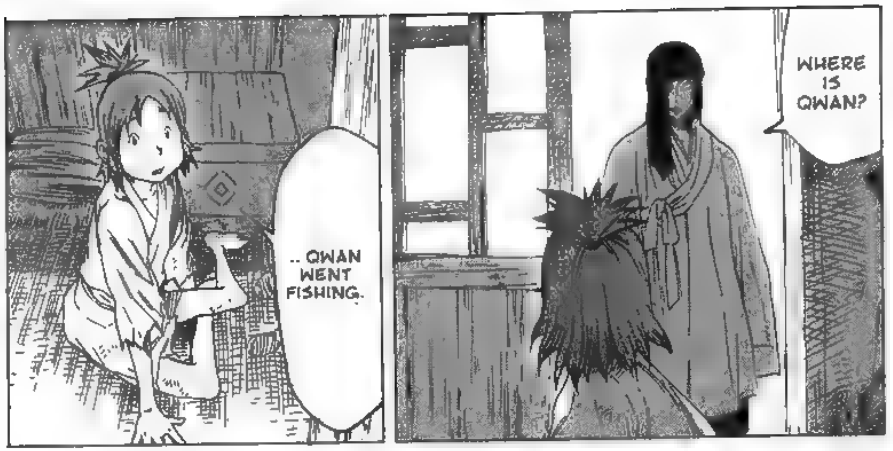
I...
I WILL GO.

?!

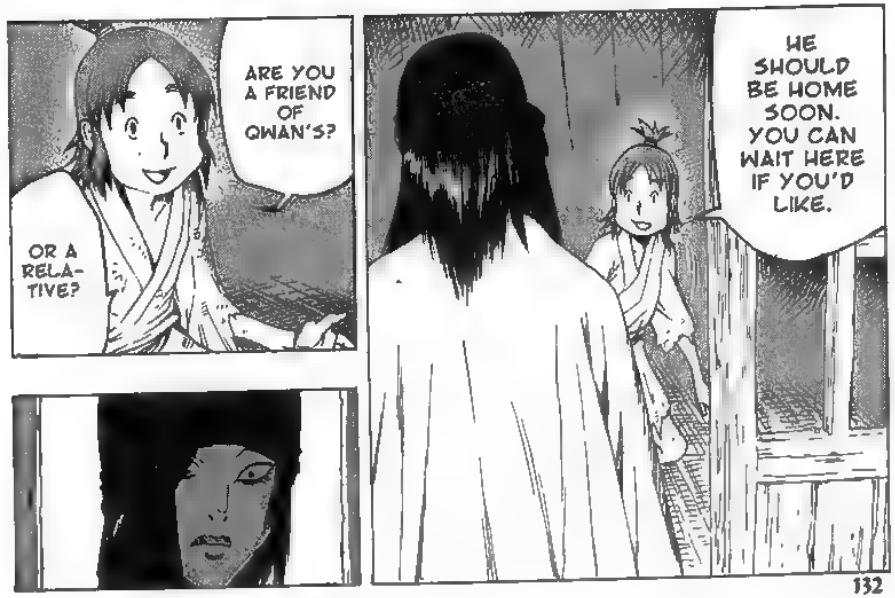
ガラ
WEL-COME HOME, SHAGA.
YOU'RE EARLY TO--
HUH? WHO ARE YOU?

I KNOW IT WILL LOOK GOOD ON HER.
I WONDER IF SHE'LL LIKE THIS.

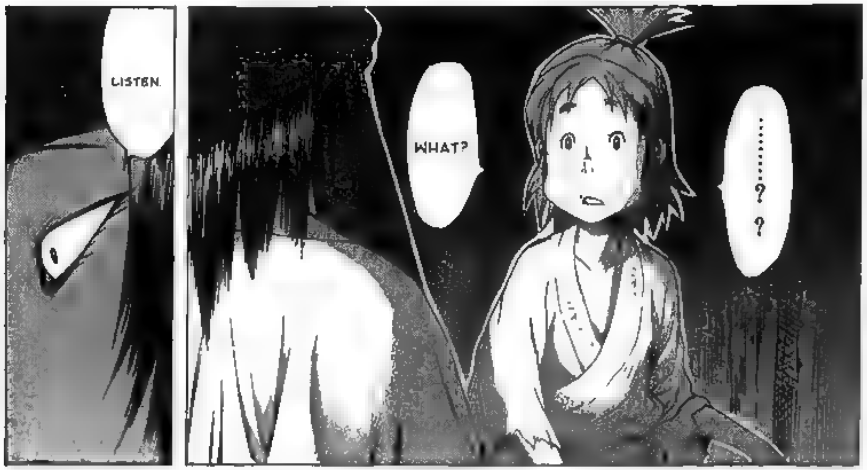



.. QWAN WENT FISHING.
WHERE IS QWAN?

I SEE.
.....


ARE YOU A FRIEND OF QWAN'S?
OR A RELA-TIVE?
HE SHOULD BE HOME SOON. YOU CAN WAIT HERE IF YOU'D LIKE.

IF ONLY THOSE NEEDLESS THINGS WOULD GO AWAY.
THEN THE WORLD COULD BE BEAUTIFUL.
USELESS MOVEMENTS, USELESS SPEECH..
THE HUMAN WORLD IS FULL OF USELESS THINGS.

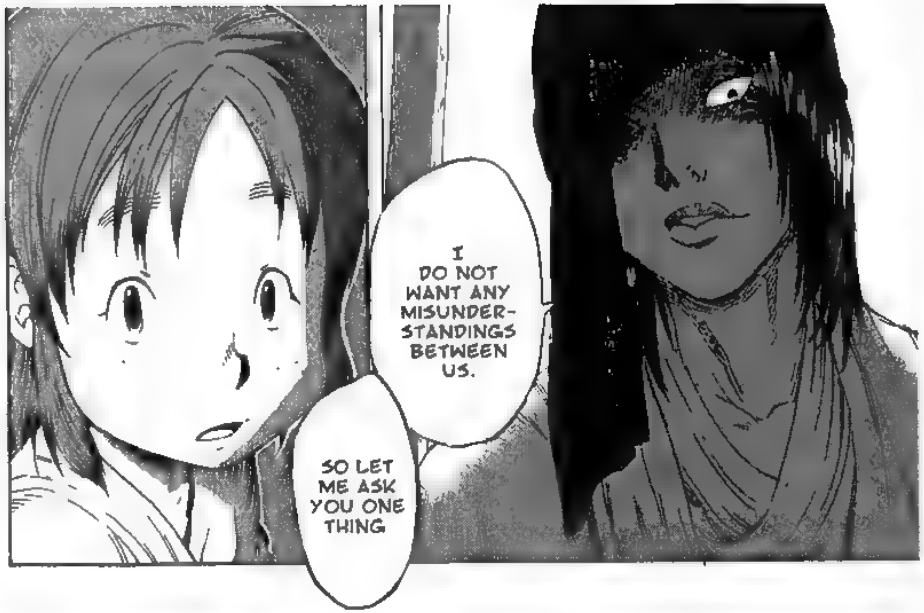

LISTEN.
WHAT?
.....??

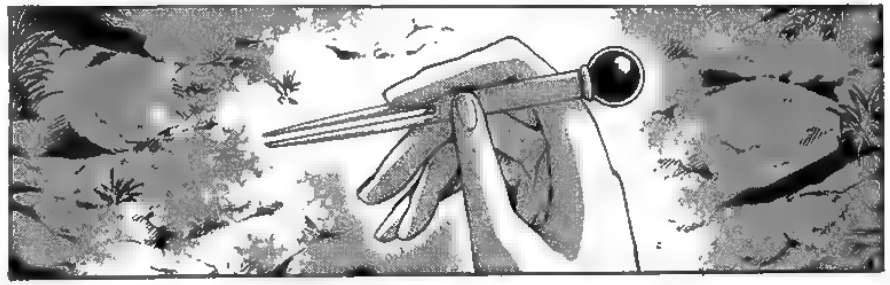
"WHAT DO YOU LIVE FOR?"
AND HER ANSWER WAS...

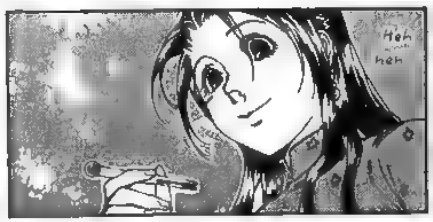
I ASKED HER ONE THING.

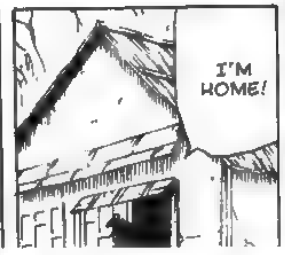
WHY... HOW...?

..."BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO DIE, OF COURSE!"

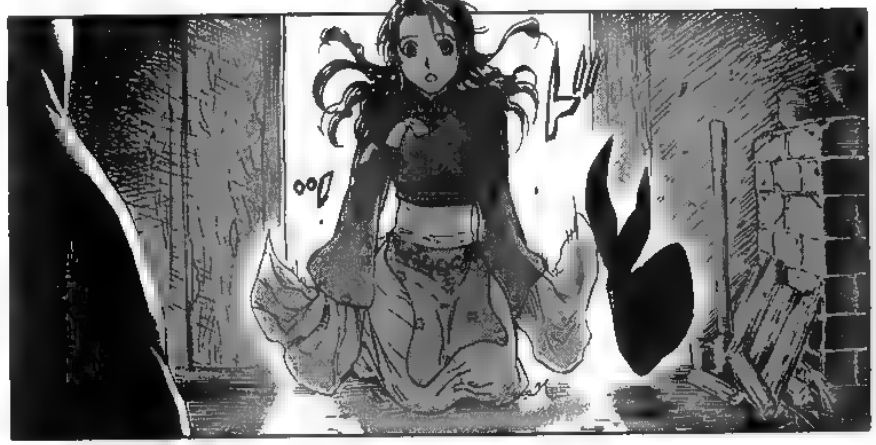

I DO NOT WANT ANY MISUNDER-STANDINGS BETWEEN US.
SO LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING




Heh heh


I'M HOME!

A LAUGHABLE THOUGHT. LIVING...
FOR THE SAKE OF SURVIVAL


OOF!

SUCH A POINTLESS CREATURE...
...NEED NOT EXIST.

WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE!!

Continued in Qwan Volume 5

Huang Zhong

Courtesy Name: Hansheng / Lived: ?~200

Usually envisioned as an aged, white-haired general.

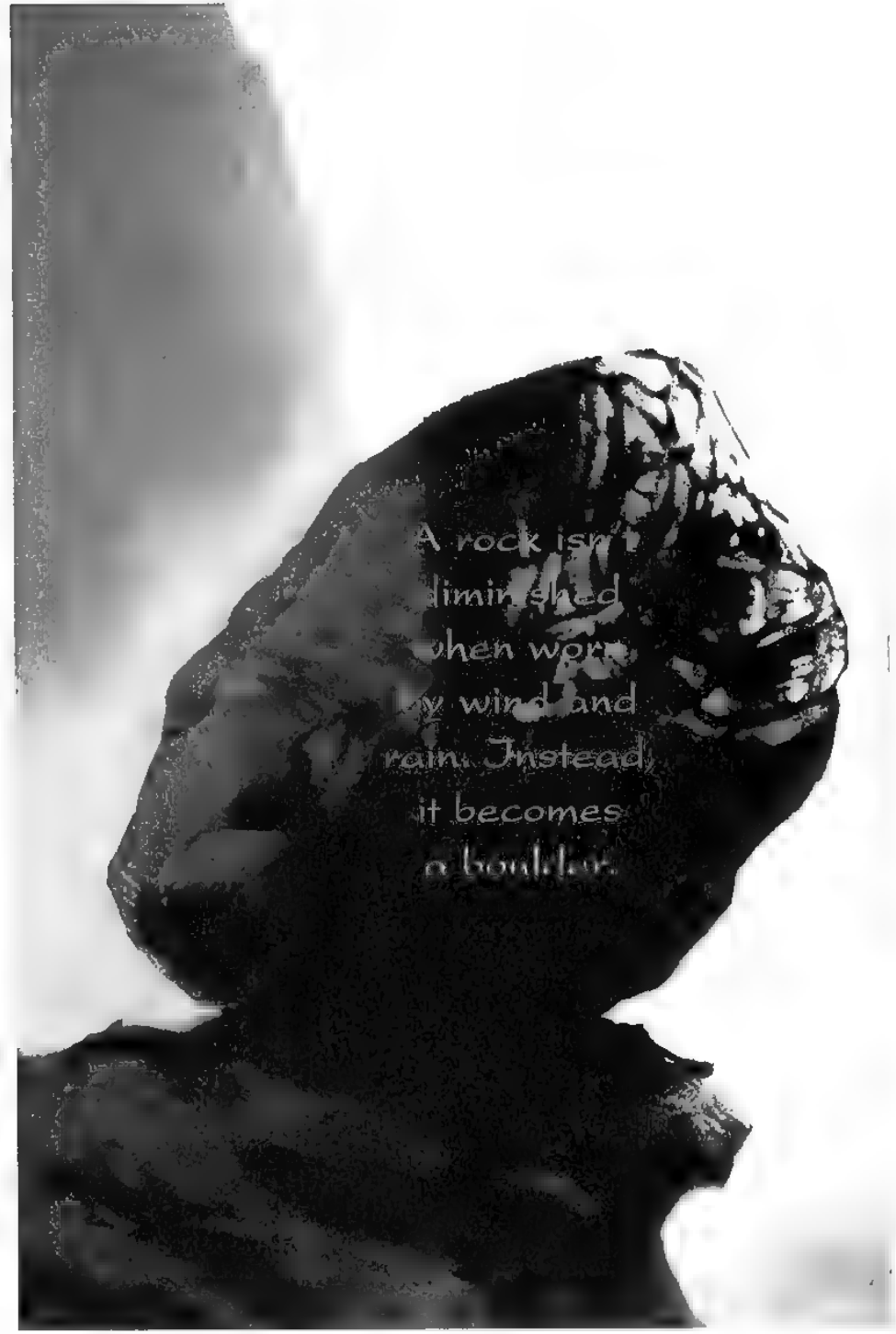
The first half of his life is shrouded in mystery.

He began serving under Liu Bei in southern Jingzhou, soon facing the front lines of battle in the campaign for Yizhou. His bravery earned him the rank of General.

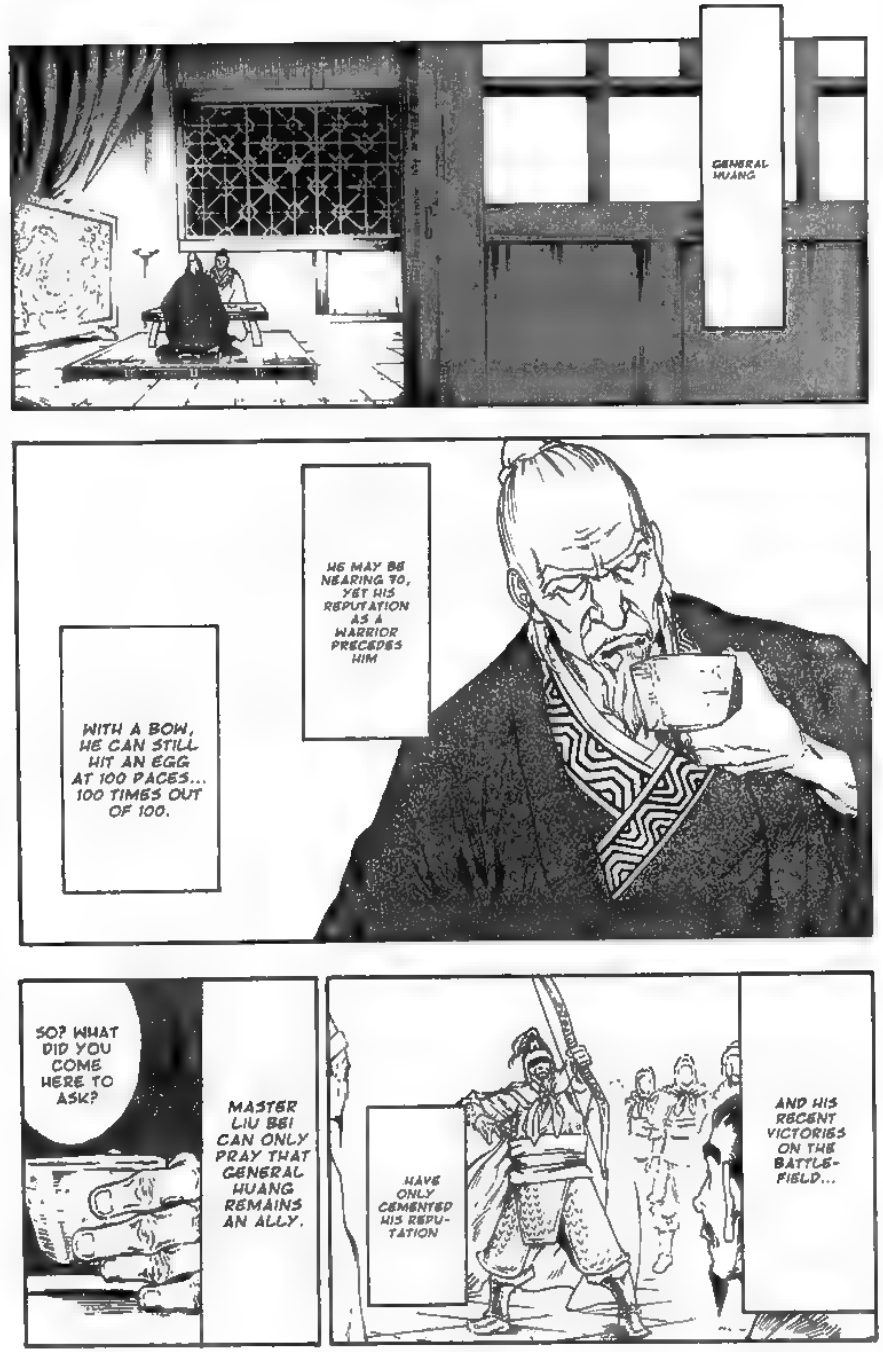
In the battle of Mount Dingjun, he led an offensive against Cao Cao's General, Xiahou Yuan.

His strategy earned him the title of Major General standing among Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, until he fell in battle a few years later.

*Zilong: Zhao Yun's courtesy name. One of Liu Bei's allies.



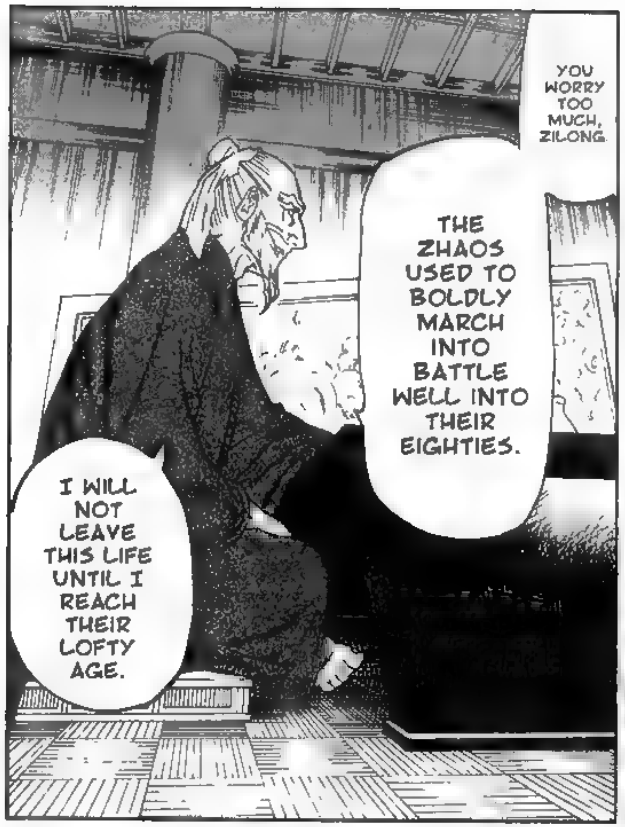
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
AS A MAJOR GENERAL, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ASSEMBLE YOUR OWN TEAM OF OFFICERS.
HOWEVER, THE ONES YOU HAVE CHOSEN ARE ALL OLD.
YES.
AS IF I'M GOING OFF TO DIE?
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...


GENERAL HUANG
HE MAY BE NEARING 70, YET HIS REPUTATION AS A WARRIOR PRECEDES HIM
WITH A BOW, HE CAN STILL HIT AN EGG AT 100 PACES... 100 TIMES OUT OF 100.
SO? WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO ASK?
MASTER LIU BEI CAN ONLY PRAY THAT GENERAL HUANG REMAINS AN ALLY.
HAVE ONLY CEMENTED HIS REPUTATION
AND HIS RECENT VICTORIES ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

LISTEN, MASTER ZILONG.
I WANT TO BE A ROCK.

I WILL RETURN SHORTLY
PLEASE TEND TO OUR GUEST.
Waah! Waah!
A... ROCK?

.....??
YOU WILL UNDER-STAND SOON ENOUGH, ZHAO YUN.


YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, ZILONG.
THE ZHAOS USED TO BOLDLY MARCH INTO BATTLE WELL INTO THEIR EIGHTIES.
I WILL NOT LEAVE THIS LIFE UNTIL I REACH THEIR LOFTY AGE.

.....

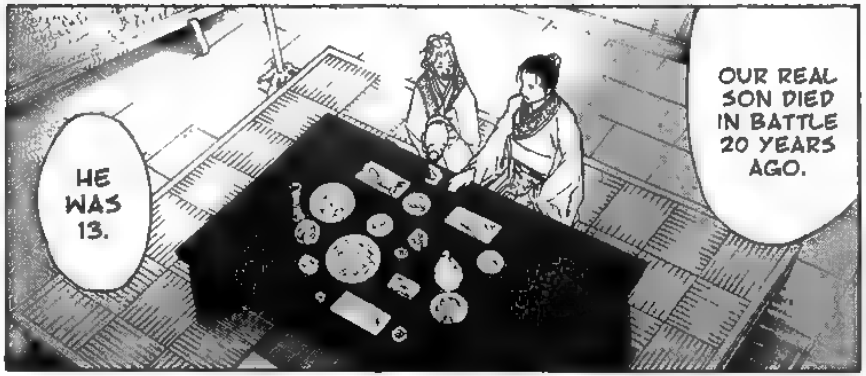
Ha ha ha!

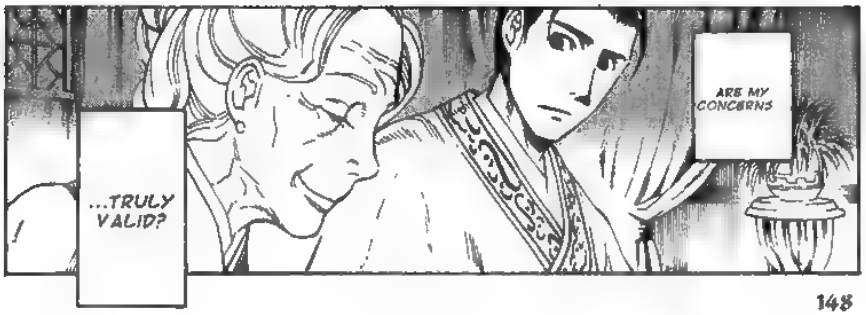
IS THAT YOUR ONLY REASON?

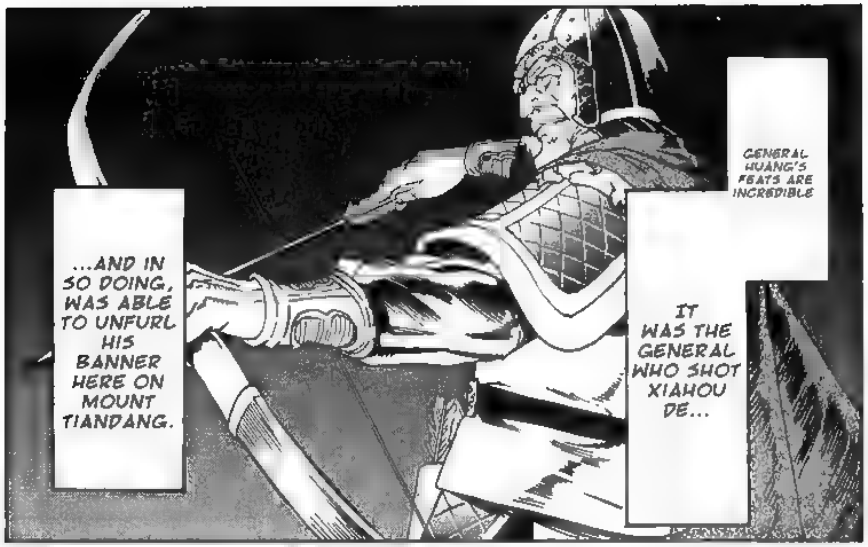
...DO NOT LIVE TO BECOME OLD OFFICERS
BESIDES, YOUNG ONES DO NOT LISTEN. AND YOUNG OFFICERS WHO DO NOT LISTEN...

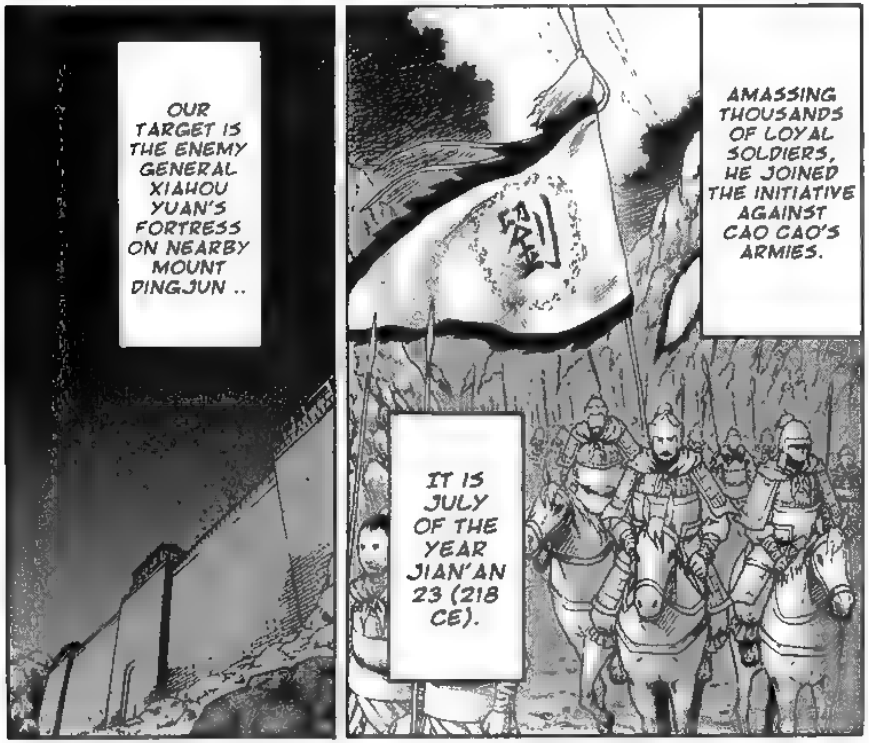
.....

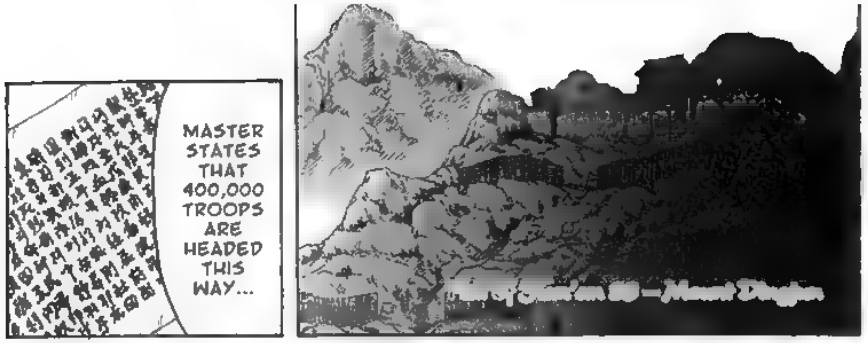
THAT CHILD BELONGS TO MY COUSIN. THEY STOPPED BY TO VISIT EARLIER TODAY.


HE WAS 13.
OUR REAL SON DIED IN BATTLE 20 YEARS AGO.


...TRULY VALID?
ARE MY CONCERNS

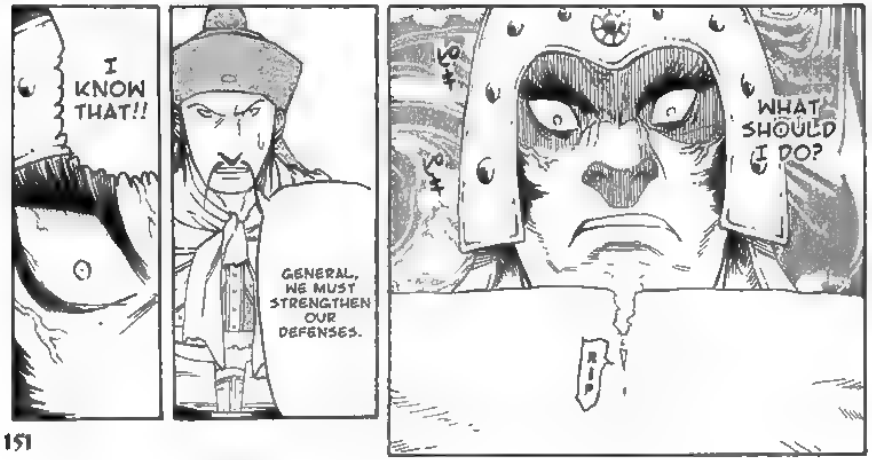

...AND IN SO DOING, WAS ABLE TO UNFURL HIS BANNER HERE ON MOUNT TIANDANG.
GENERAL HUANG'S FEATS ARE INCREDIBLE
IT WAS THE GENERAL WHO SHOT XIAHOU DE...

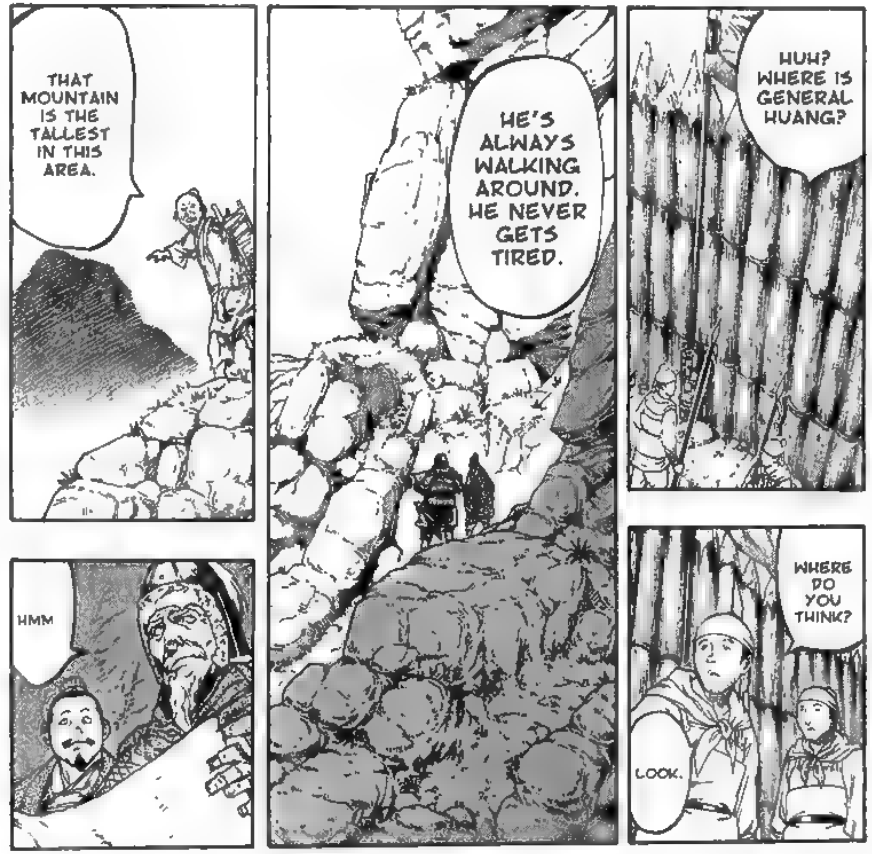

OUR TARGET IS THE ENEMY GENERAL XIAHOU YUAN'S FORTRESS ON NEARBY MOUNT DINGJUN ..
AMASSING THOUSANDS OF LOYAL SOLDIERS, HE JOINED THE INITIATIVE AGAINST CAO CAO'S ARMIES.
IT IS JULY OF THE YEAR JIAN'AN 23 (218 CE).



*Master = Cao Cao

BUT I CANNOT RISK THE LOSS OF MEN.
THIS IS BAD. I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE OVER THEM BEFORE THEY ARRIVE.
Xiahou Yuan (Courtesy Name: Mao'an)




THAT MOUNTAIN IS THE TALLEST IN THIS AREA.
HMM
HE'S ALWAYS WALKING AROUND. HE NEVER GETS TIRED.
HUH? WHERE IS GENERAL HUANG?
WHERE DO YOU THINK?
LOOK.

RONG!!
YES!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, FATHER!
Xiahou Rong
COME AND WATCH YOUR FATHER'S BATTLE!!
YOU SHALL JOIN THE FIRST UNIT AND WATCH ME TAKE HUANG ZHONG'S HEAD!!
GENERAL!!

ABOUT THAT... W-WELL...
OH! UH...
I ASKED YOU TO GUARD THE WESTERN PEAK!
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
...AND TOOK IT FROM YOU?
THE SHU SOLDIERS STRUCK THE WESTERN PEAK AT NIGHT...
I-I HAVE NO EXCUSE, I KNOW!
AND YOU FLED ALL THE WAY BACK HERE...?

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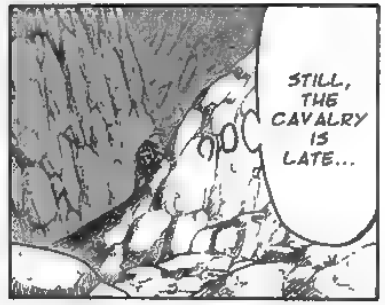
KILL THEM ALL!!
STAIN THE MOUNTAIN WITH THEIR BLOOD!!

THAT IS XIAHOU YUAN, THE ENEMY GENERAL.

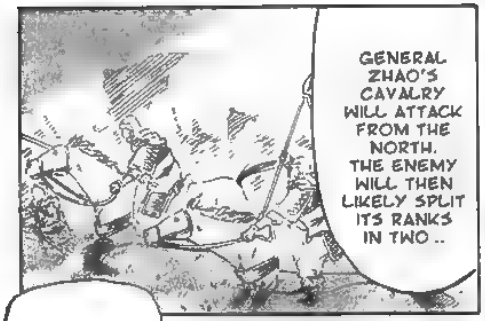

STILL, THE CAVALRY IS LATE...

!

SHOULD WE PLAY IT SAFE AND RISK LETTING OPPORTUNITY PASS US?
OR, SHOULD WE ATTACK NOW, AND HAVE FAITH THAT THE CAVALRY WILL ARRIVE ONCE WE DO?
IF WE ATTACK NOW, WE CAN ELIMINATE THEIR COMMANDER!
BUT THEN, IF THE CAVALRY DOES NOT COME, OUR NUMBERS ARE NOT GREAT ENOUGH TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT.

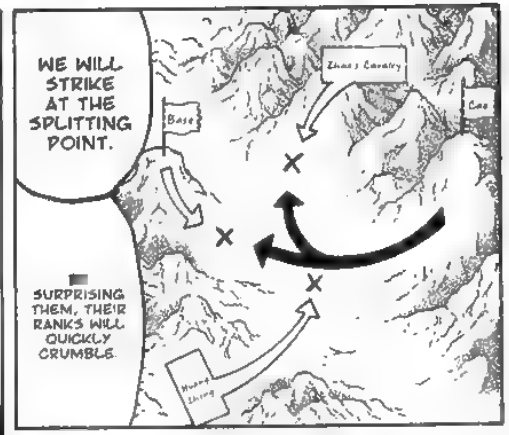
THEY.. KNOW WHAT I AM THINK-ING.

WE WILL FOLLOW YOU AS WE ALWAYS HAVE, GENERAL!
GENERAL HUANG!

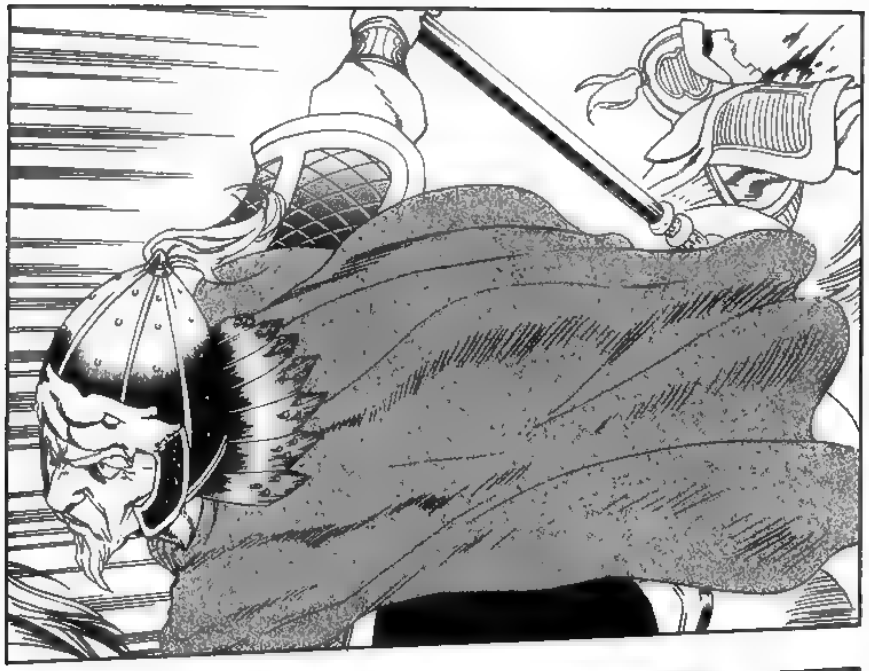

GENERAL ZHAO'S CAVALRY WILL ATTACK FROM THE NORTH. THE ENEMY WILL THEN LIKELY SPLIT ITS RANKS IN TWO..

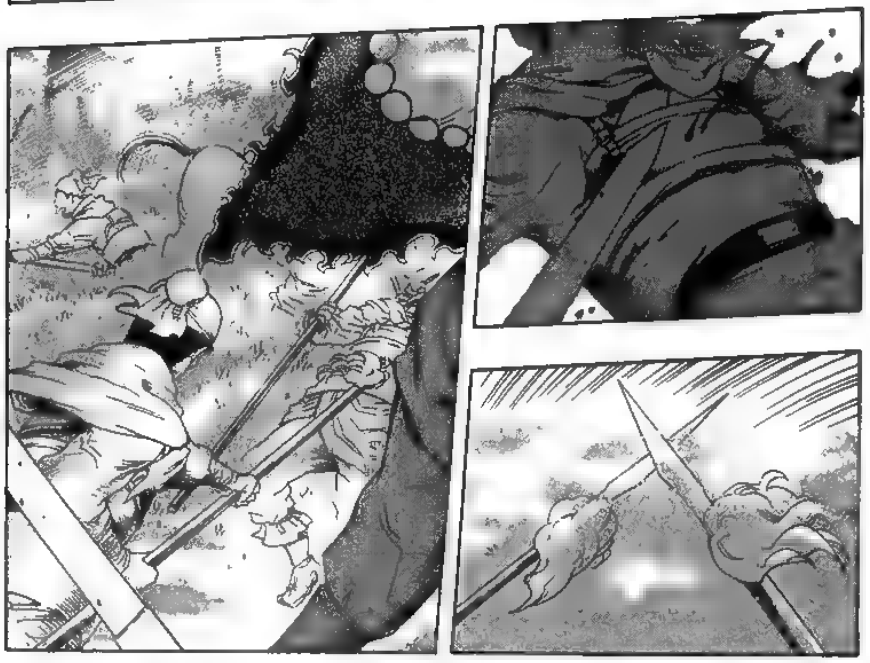
...AND THAT IS WHEN WE ATTACK.

"THE FAITH OF STONE SHALL MAKE YOU A TIGER."
IF WE BELIEVE IN IT, WE WILL BE VICTORIOUS!


WE WILL STRIKE AT THE SPLITTING POINT.
SURPRISING THEM, THEIR RANKS WILL QUICKLY CRUMBLE.
Zhao's Cavalry
Base
Cao
Huang Zhong

BUT THIS IS NO PEASANT MILITIA. THE ENEMY IS XIAHOU YUAN. DO WE REALLY STAND A CHANCE?





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DO NOT WAVER!! SPLIT INTO TWO UNITS!!
THE CAVALRY!

...THEN MY ANSWER WILL BE CLEAR.
IF I AM TRUE TO MY WAYS...

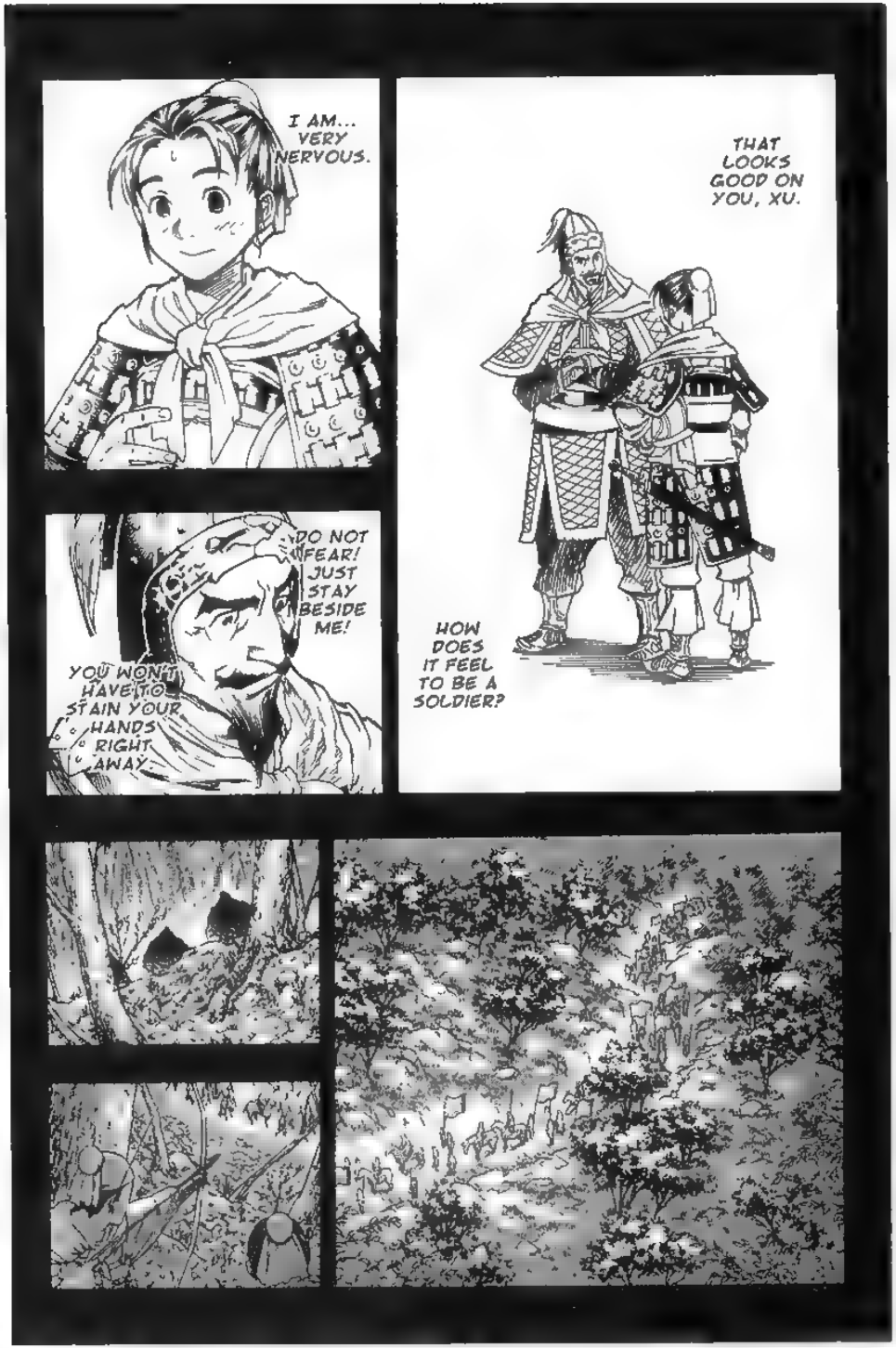
HUANG ZHONG! PREPARE YOURSELF!!
?!

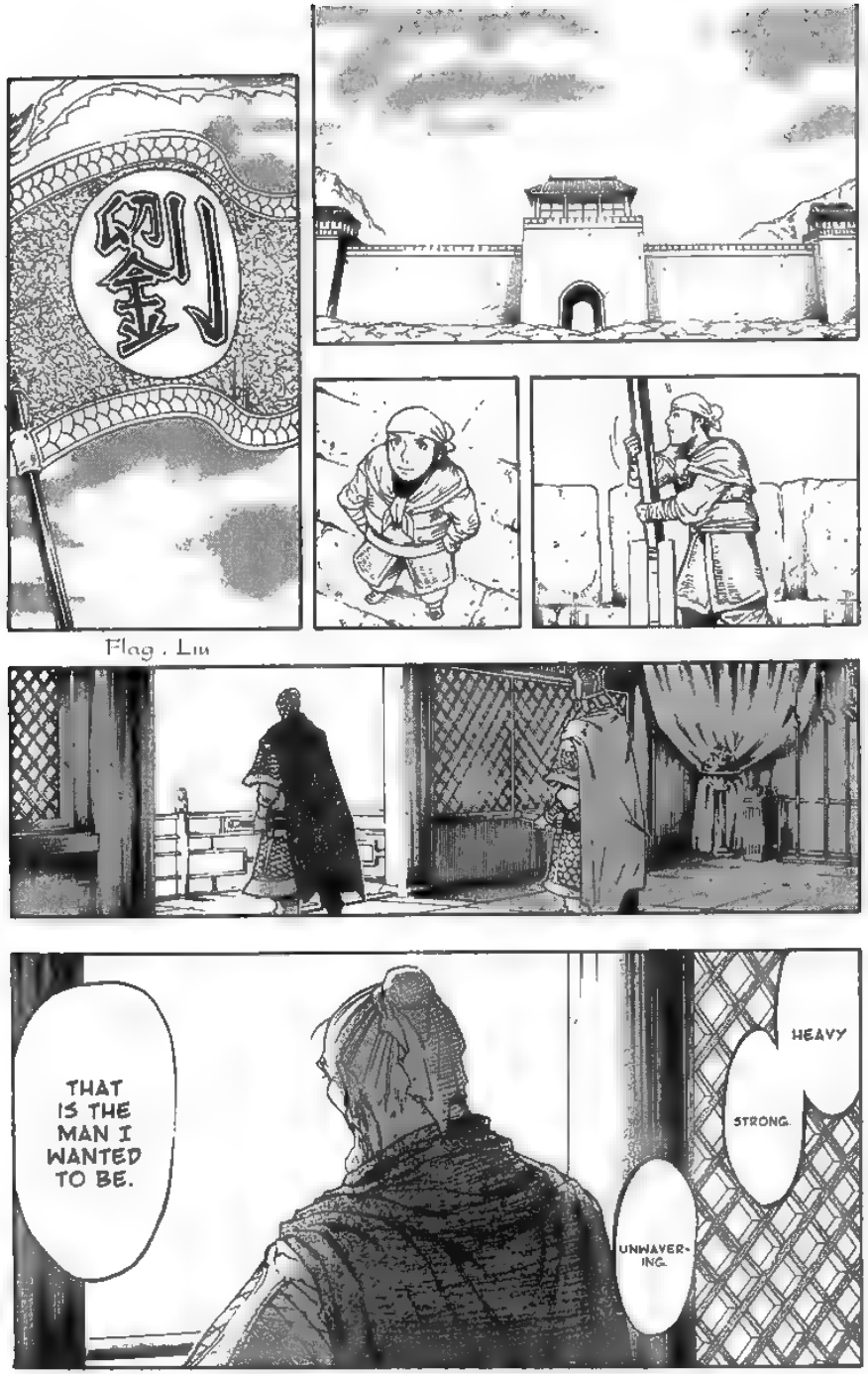
REMAIN CALM!!
MORE SOLDIERS!!
AH!
REMAIN--

FAAAAAATHER!!

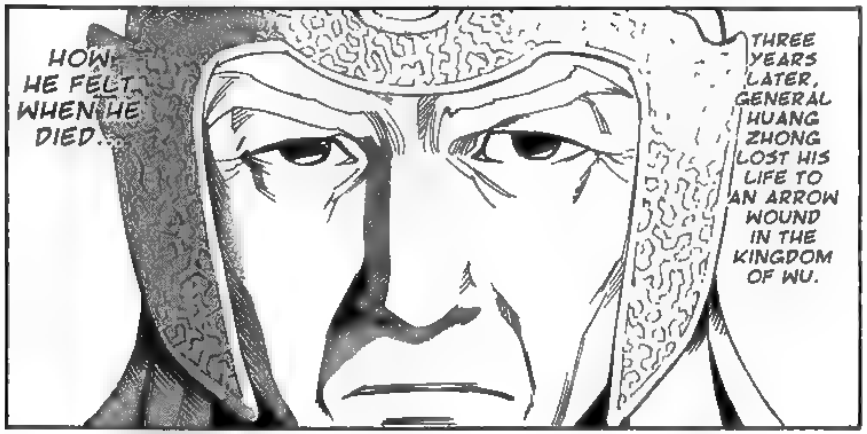
GENERAL XIAHOU HAS BEEN SLAIN!
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!!
MASTER RONG! WE MUST GET YOU TO SAFETY!!
F-F...
FATHER

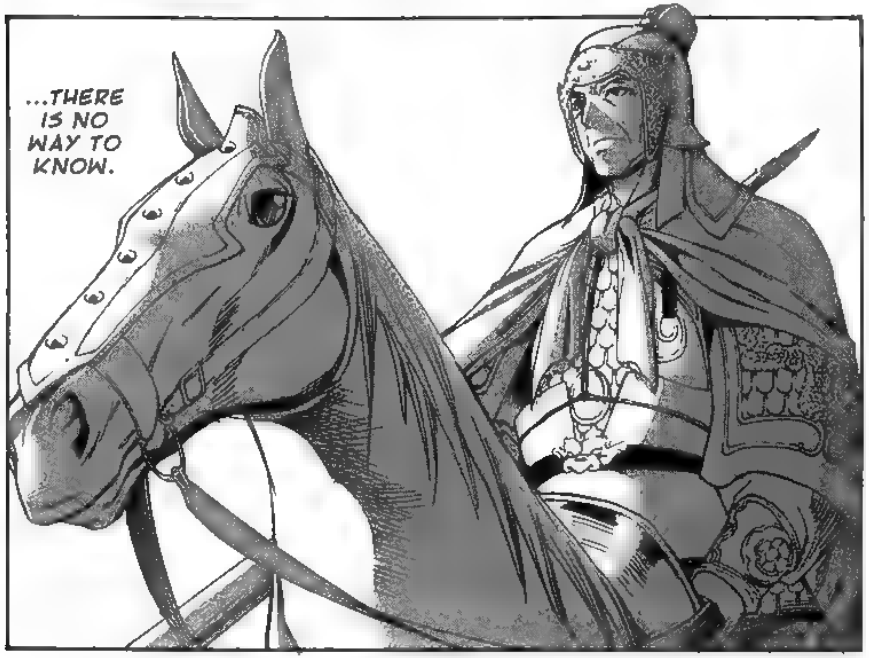
LOOK OUT!! XU!!


I AM... VERY NERVOUS.
DO NOT FEAR! JUST STAY BESIDE ME!
YOU WON'T HAVE TO STAIN YOUR HANDS RIGHT AWAY.
THAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, XU.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A SOLDIER?


劉
Flag : Liu
THAT IS THE MAN I WANTED TO BE.
HEAVY
STRONG.
UNWAVERING.

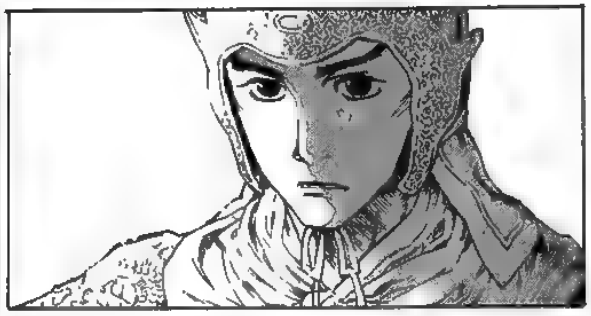
ファアアア
TUPT!


HOW HE FELT WHEN HE DIED...
THREE YEARS LATER, GENERAL HUANG ZHONG LOST HIS LIFE TO AN ARROW WOUND IN THE KINGDOM OF WU.

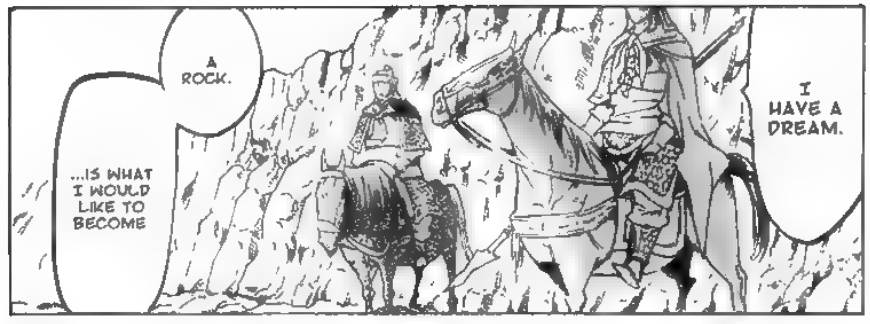

...THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW.

WHAT A FOOL I WAS.
EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED... WAS ABSOLUTE NONSENSE.

NO, GENERAL HUANG.



I...
. BELIEVE AS YOU DO, AND WOULD LIKE TO LIVE MY LIFE AS YOU HAVE LIVED YOURS


A ROCK.
...IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME
I HAVE A DREAM.

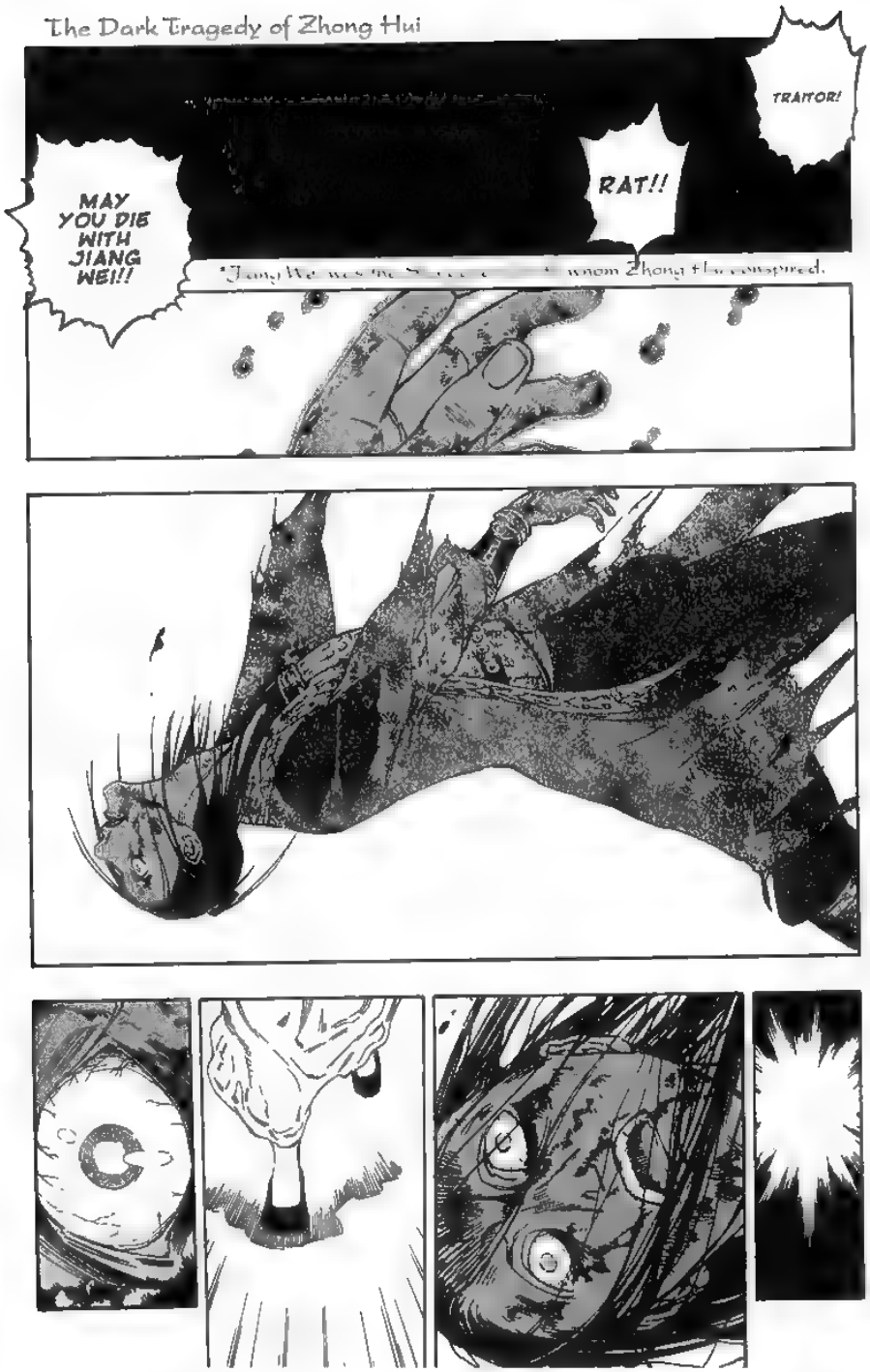
IT BEFITS AN OLD WARRIOR LIKE ME.
Heh!

OH...A ROCK?

ONE DAY...
...YOU TOO WILL UNDER-STAND.

The End

The Dark Tragedy of Zhong Hui



Zhong Hui

Lived: 225~264

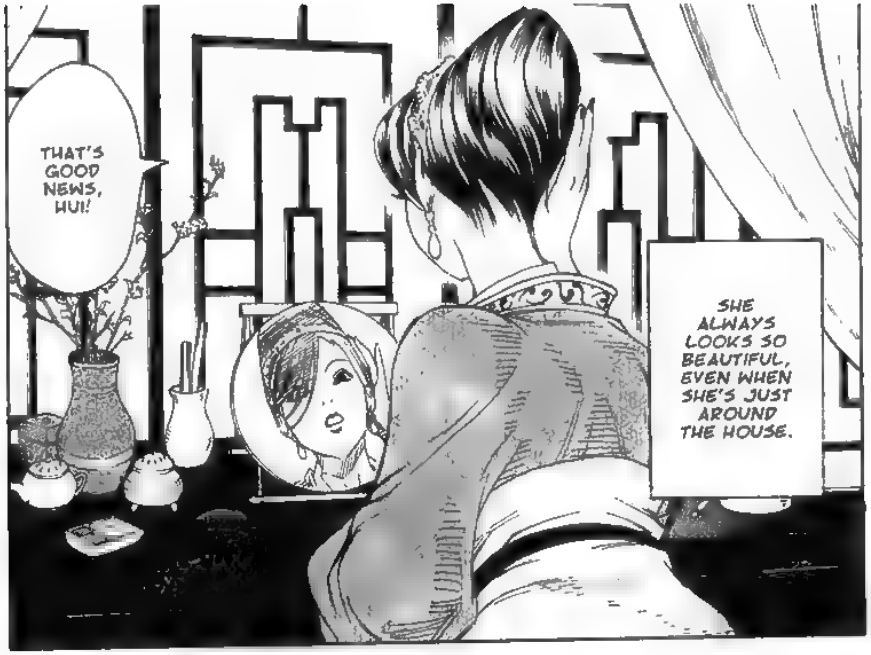
A Wei aristocrat during the Three Kingdoms period.

Believed from a young age to possess divine powers, he made a name for himself as a wartime strategist.

He fought the Shu Kingdom with Deng Ai, but they later suffered a falling out.

Overtaken in power by Deng Ai, Zhong Hui conspired with the Shu in order to sabotage Deng Ai.

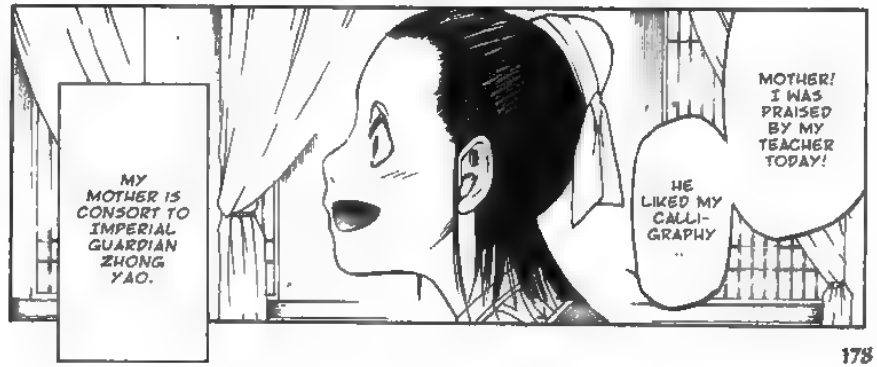
When the Wei generals discovered this plot to kill them, Zhong Hui was executed instead.


THAT'S GOOD NEWS, HUI!
SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL, EVEN WHEN SHE'S JUST AROUND THE HOUSE.

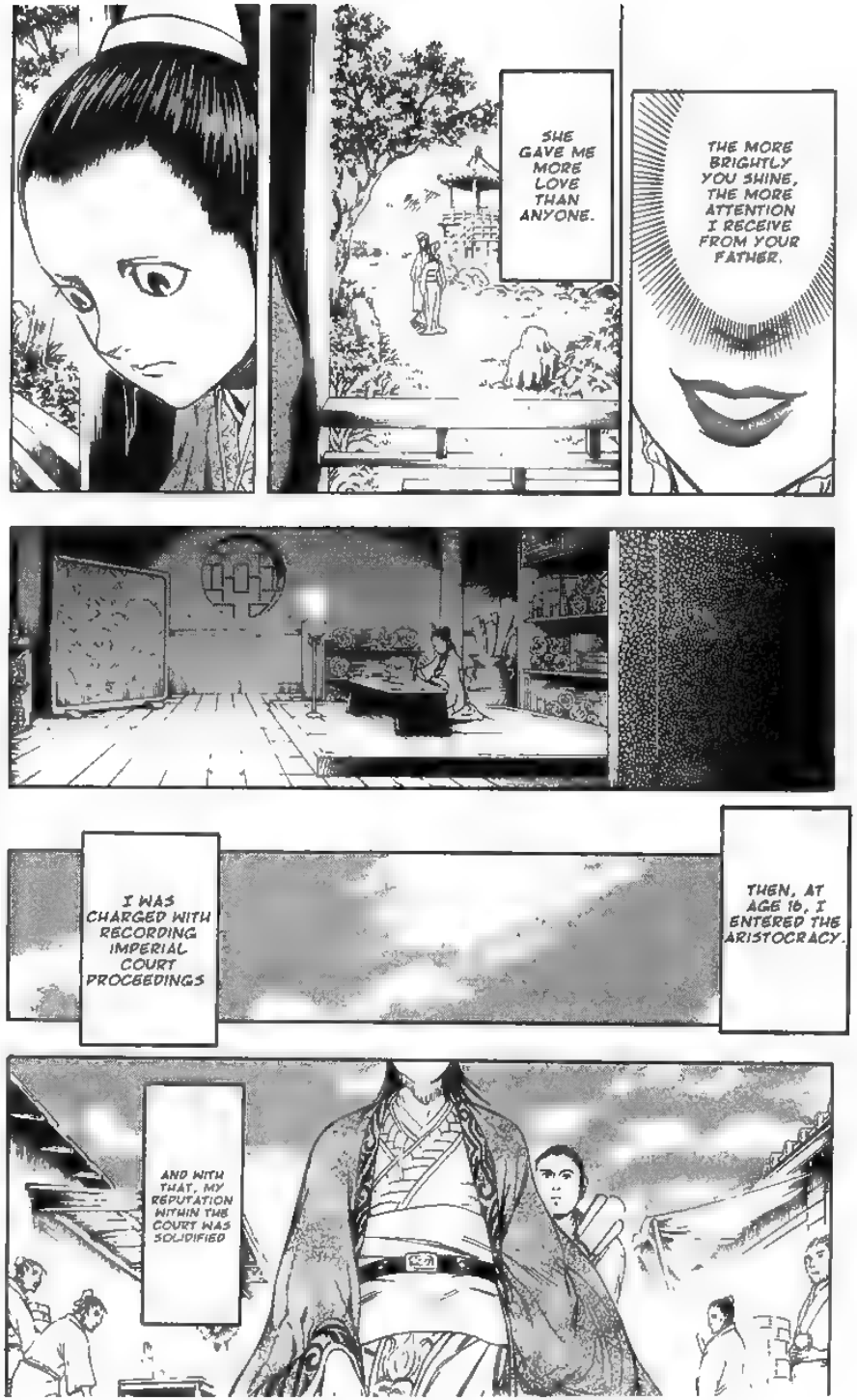
MASTER!
YES!
ARE YOU COMING?!
MOTHER IS BUSY.
SORRY, BUT CAN IT WAIT TILL LATER?
AND--

YOU ARE IGNORING MASTER SUN? FOR ME?!

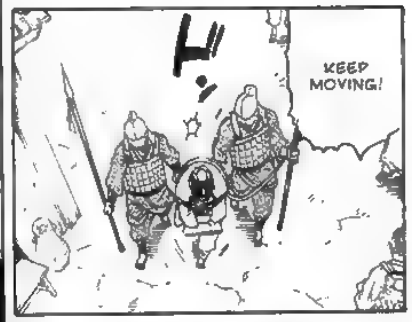
MOTHER
MOTHER!!


MY MOTHER IS CONSORT TO IMPERIAL GUARDIAN ZHONG YAO.
HE LIKED MY CALLI-GRAPHY ..
MOTHER! I WAS PRAISED BY MY TEACHER TODAY!

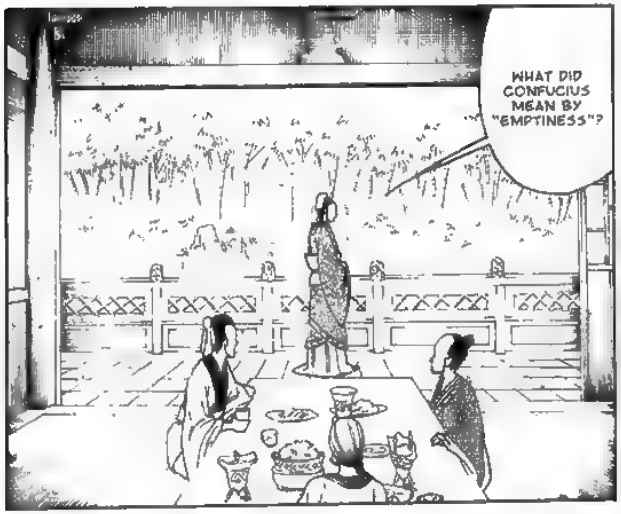
I'VE HEARD THAT, AS WELL. HIS ABILITIES ARE HIGHLY PRAISED...
whisper
THEY SAY THERE'S NOTHING HE DOESN'T KNOW!
whisper
LOOK! IT'S ZHONG HUI.
mutter
mutter
HE'S HERE FROM THE PALACE!
BUT DO YOU KNOW HIS DARK SECRET?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, I'D STAY AWAY FROM HIM.
THE PEOPLE HE DOESN'T LIKE SEEM TO HAVE A STRANGE HABIT OF DISAPPEARING.
XI KANG? ONE OF THE SEVEN SAGES OF THE BAMBOO GROVE?
THEY SAY XI KANG REFUSED TO BECOME HIS MENTOR, AND WAS THUS SENTENCED TO DEATH


SHE GAVE ME MORE LOVE THAN ANYONE.
THE MORE BRIGHTLY YOU SHINE, THE MORE ATTENTION I RECEIVE FROM YOUR FATHER.
I WAS CHARGED WITH RECORDING IMPERIAL COURT PROCEEDINGS
THEN, AT AGE 18, I ENTERED THE ARISTOCRACY.
AND WITH THAT, MY REPUTATION WITHIN THE COURT WAS SOLIDIFIED

mutter
mutter


KEEP MOVING!

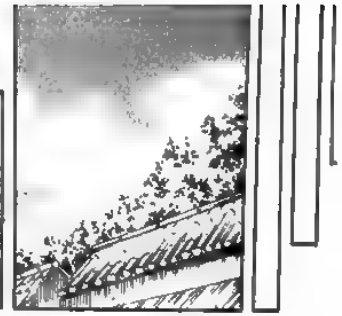
TRAITOR!!


WHAT DID CONFUCIUS MEAN BY "EMPTINESS"?

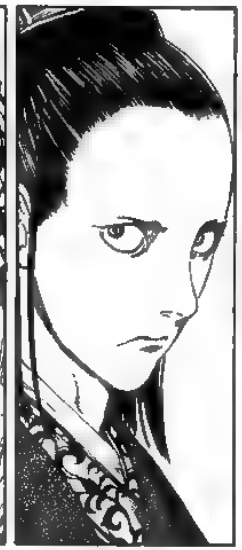
I CONFERRED WITH POETS, CALLIGRAPHERS AND WRITERS.

IT JUST [redacted] AT NOTHING IS THERE
EMPTINESS IS NOTHINGNESS RIGHT?

WHY ME?!

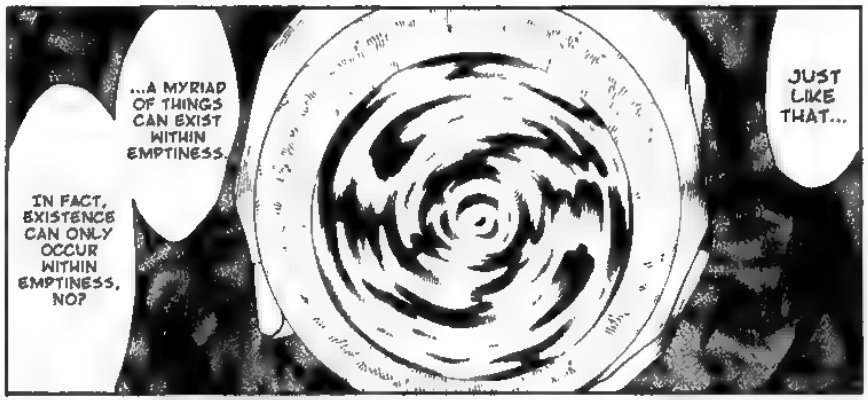


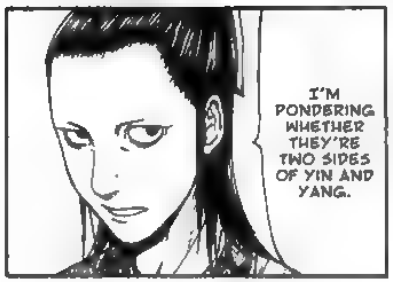
HE'S ACCUSED OF SPYING FOR THE SHU.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE SET ME UP!



Gasp!

BUT I CAN POUR TEA INTO IT.
WELL, THIS CUP IS EMPTY.


...A MYRIAD OF THINGS CAN EXIST WITHIN EMPTINESS.
IN FACT, EXISTENCE CAN ONLY OCCUR WITHIN EMPTINESS, NO?
JUST LIKE THAT...

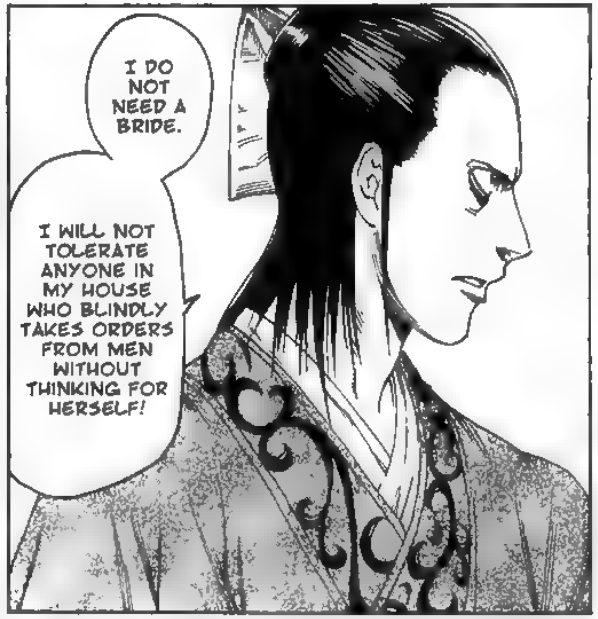

I'M PONDERING WHETHER THEY'RE TWO SIDES OF YIN AND YANG.

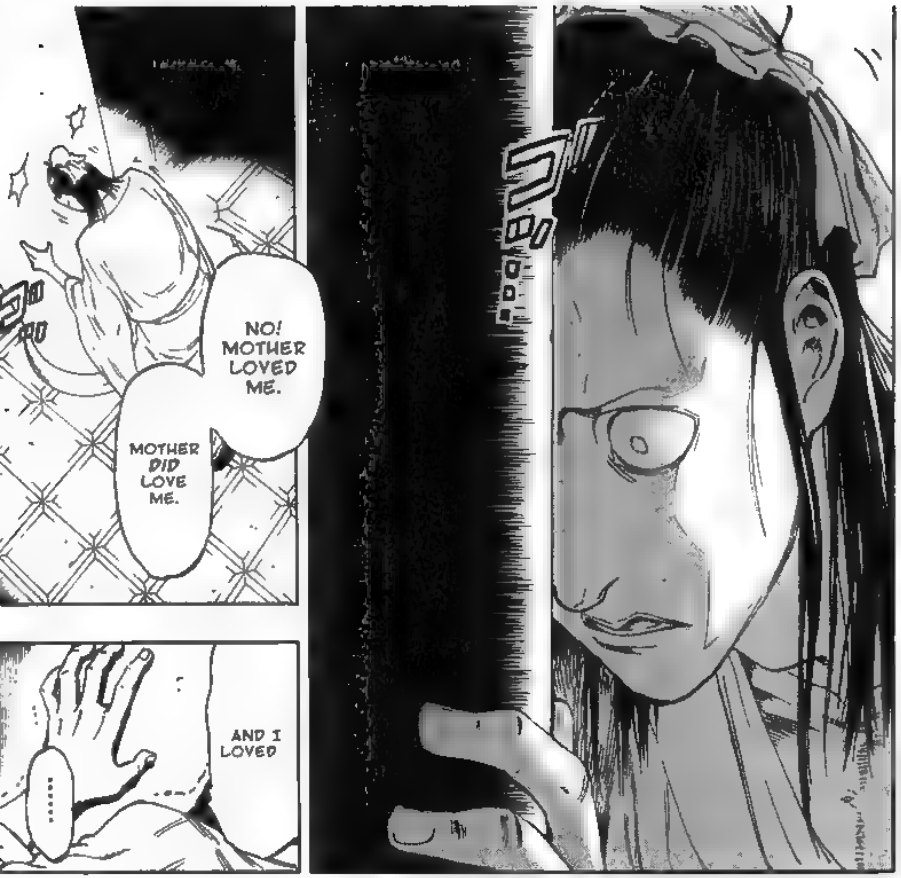
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT NOTHING AND EVERYTHING ARE ONE AND THE SAME?

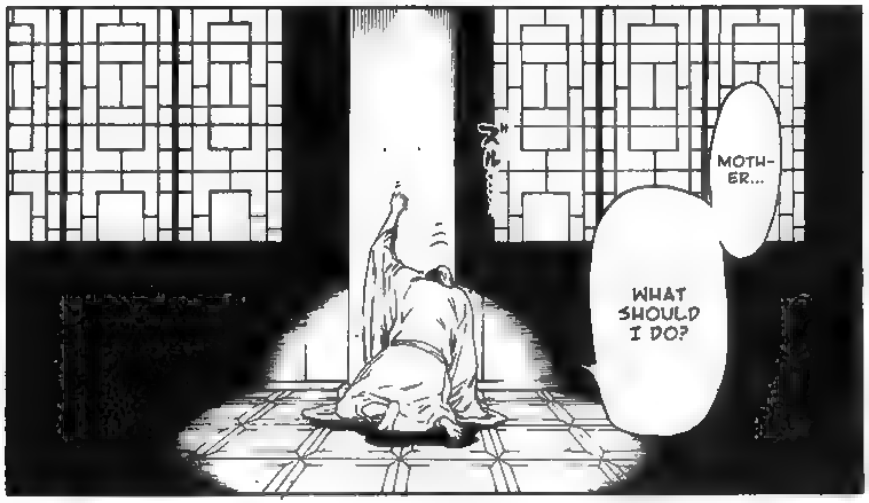
IT IS STRANGE THAT A MAN OF YOUR STATURE AND AGE IS STILL SINGLE.
TELL ME, ZHONG HUI... WILL YOU EVER MARRY?

I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND.
Err

YOU HAVE LOTS OF MONEY, DON'T YOU? YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK ANY GIRL YOU WANT!
THAT'S RIGHT!

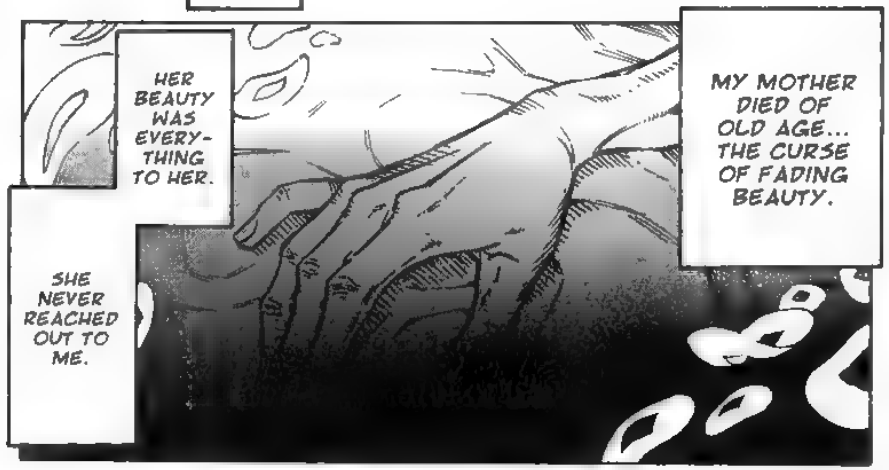

I DO NOT NEED A BRIDE.
I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANYONE IN MY HOUSE WHO BLINDLY TAKES ORDERS FROM MEN WITHOUT THINKING FOR HERSELF!


NO! MOTHER LOVED ME.
MOTHER DID LOVE ME.
AND I LOVED

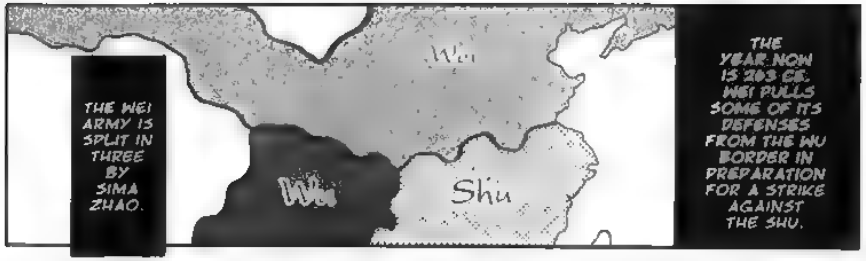

MOTH-ER...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

WOMEN... HEH.

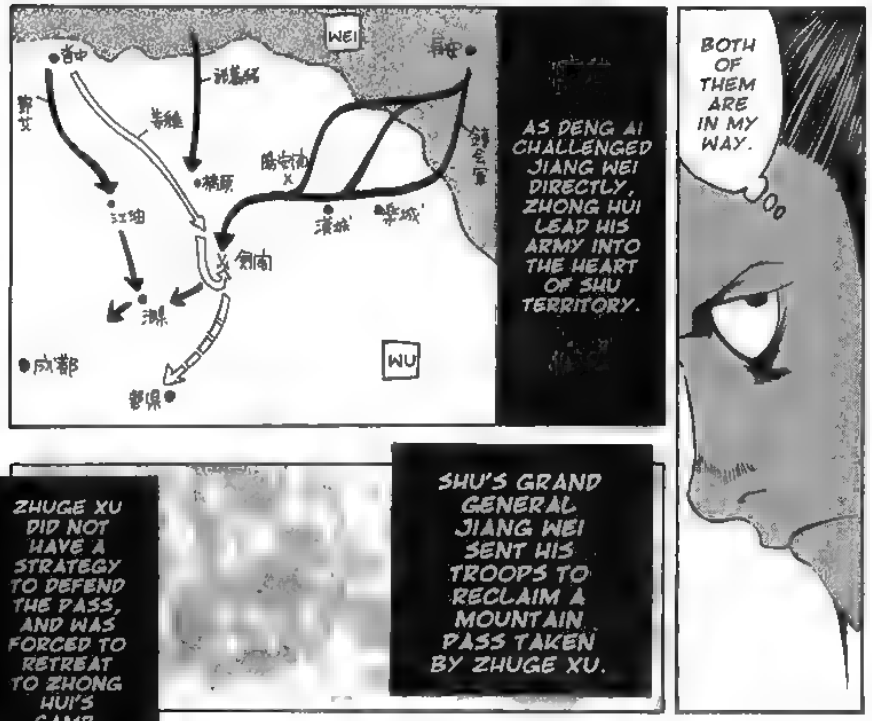
IT WAS THAT SUMMER.
. THAT I LEARNED OF MY MOTHER'S DEATH.

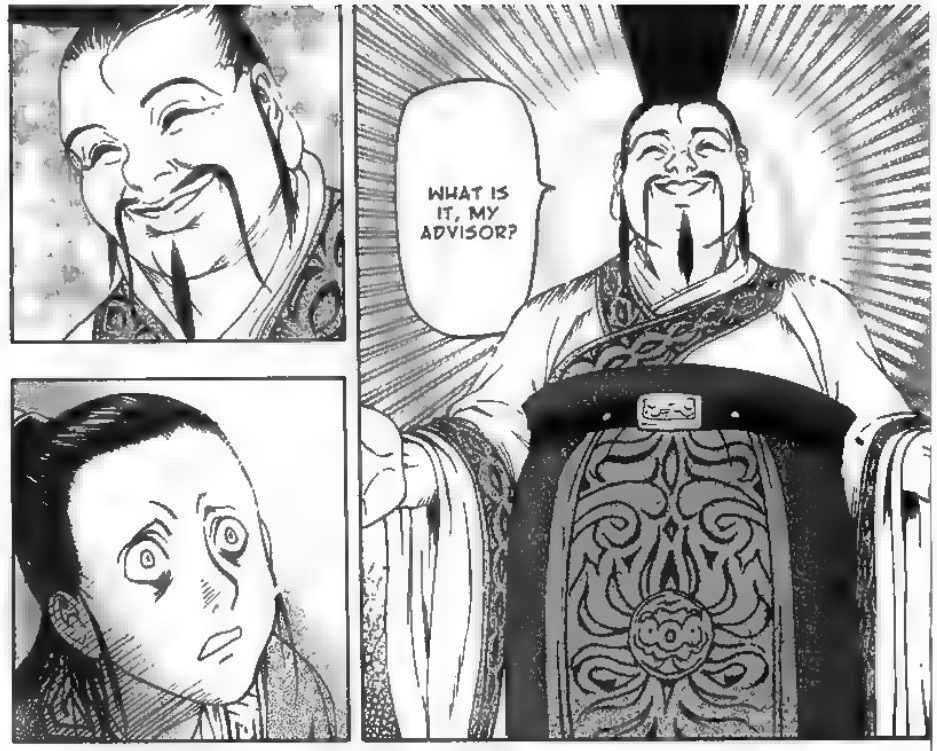

MY MOTHER DIED OF OLD AGE... THE CURSE OF FADING BEAUTY.
HER BEAUTY WAS EVERY-THING TO HER.
SHE NEVER REACHED OUT TO ME.

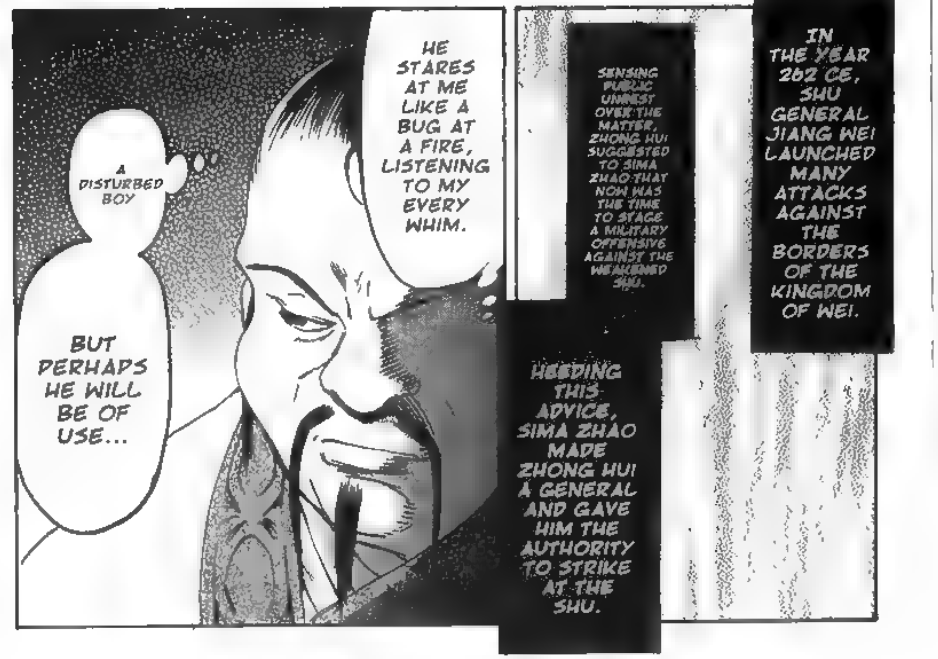
NOT ONCE.


Wei
Shu
Wu
THE WEI ARMY IS SPLIT IN THREE BY SIMA ZHAO.
THE YEAR NOW IS 263 CE. WEI PULLS SOME OF ITS DEFENSES FROM THE WU BORDER IN PREPARATION FOR A STRIKE AGAINST THE SHU.

...WHILE ZHONG HUI HAD 100,000 TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND.
...AND DENG AI COMMANDED ARMIES OF 300,000 EACH...
ZHUGE XU...


WEI
WU
AS DENG AI CHALLENGED JIANG WEI DIRECTLY, ZHONG HUI LEAD HIS ARMY INTO THE HEART OF SHU TERRITORY.
BOTH OF THEM ARE IN MY WAY.
SHU'S GRAND GENERAL JIANG WEI SENT HIS TROOPS TO RECLAIM A MOUNTAIN PASS TAKEN BY ZHUGE XU.
ZHUGE XU DID NOT HAVE A STRATEGY TO DEFEND THE PASS, AND WAS FORCED TO RETREAT TO ZHONG HUI'S CAMP.


WHAT IS IT, MY ADVISOR?


HE STARES AT ME LIKE A BUG AT A FIRE, LISTENING TO MY EVERY WHIM.
A DISTURBED BOY
BUT PERHAPS HE WILL BE OF USE...
SENSING PUBLIC UNREST OVER THE MATTER, ZHONG HUI SUGGESTED TO SIMA ZHAO THAT NOW WAS THE TIME TO STAGE A MILITARY OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE WEAKENED SHU.
HEEDING THIS ADVICE, SIMA ZHAO MADE ZHONG HUI A GENERAL AND GAVE HIM THE AUTHORITY TO STRIKE AT THE SHU.
IN THE YEAR 262 CE, SHU GENERAL JIANG WEI LAUNCHED MANY ATTACKS AGAINST THE BORDERS OF THE KINGDOM OF WEI.

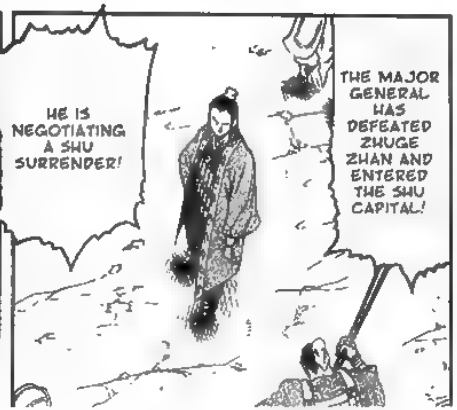
BUT ALL HE DID WAS LOSE A BRIDGE!
THERE CAN BE NO MERCY.

ZHONG HUI--
.....
MAY YOU DIE A PAINFUL DEATH!!

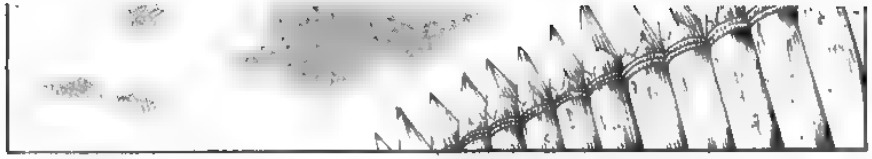
HE'S GOING TOO FAR.
mutter...
mutter

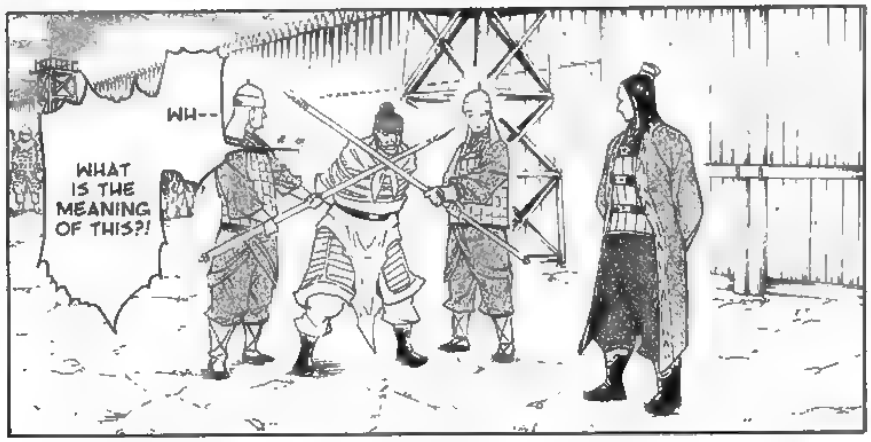
THE GENERAL MUST BE LOSING IT.

WHAT?!


HE IS NEGOTIATING A SHU SURRENDER!
THE MAJOR GENERAL HAS DEFEATED ZHUGE ZHAN AND ENTERED THE SHU CAPITAL!

A MES-SAGE!



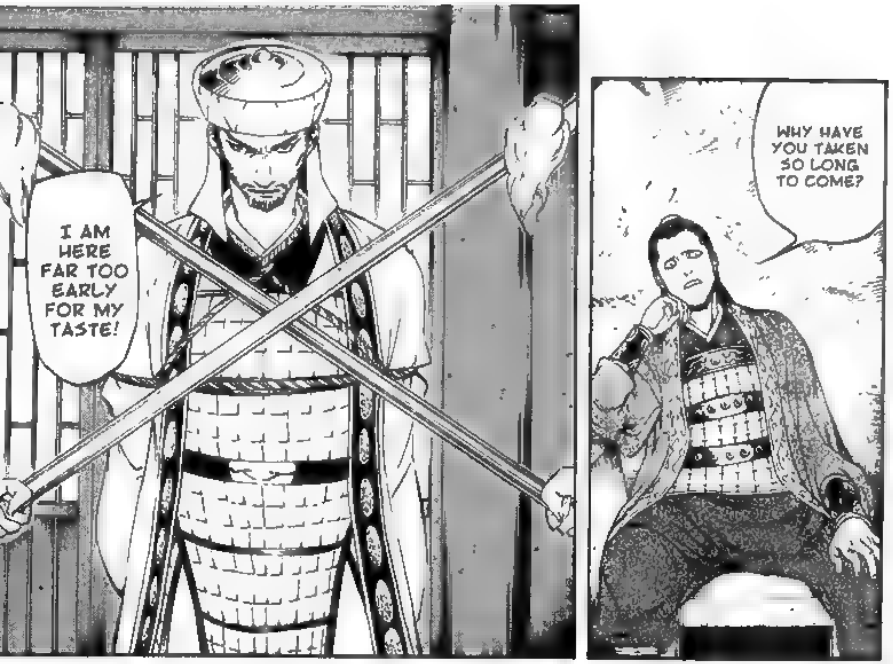

WH--
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

ZHONG HUI! DO YOU PLAN TO CLAIM ALL THE ARMIES FOR YOURSELF?!

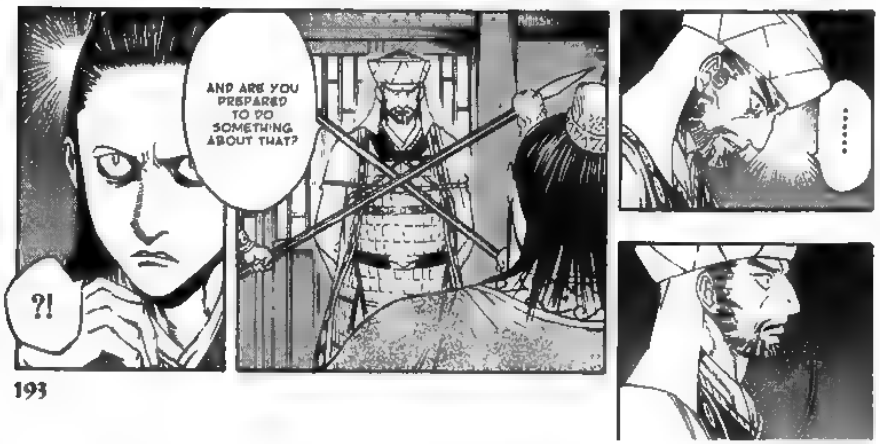
I AM TRYING YOU FOR YOUR FAILURE IN BATTLE, ZHUGE XU. THAT IS ALL.

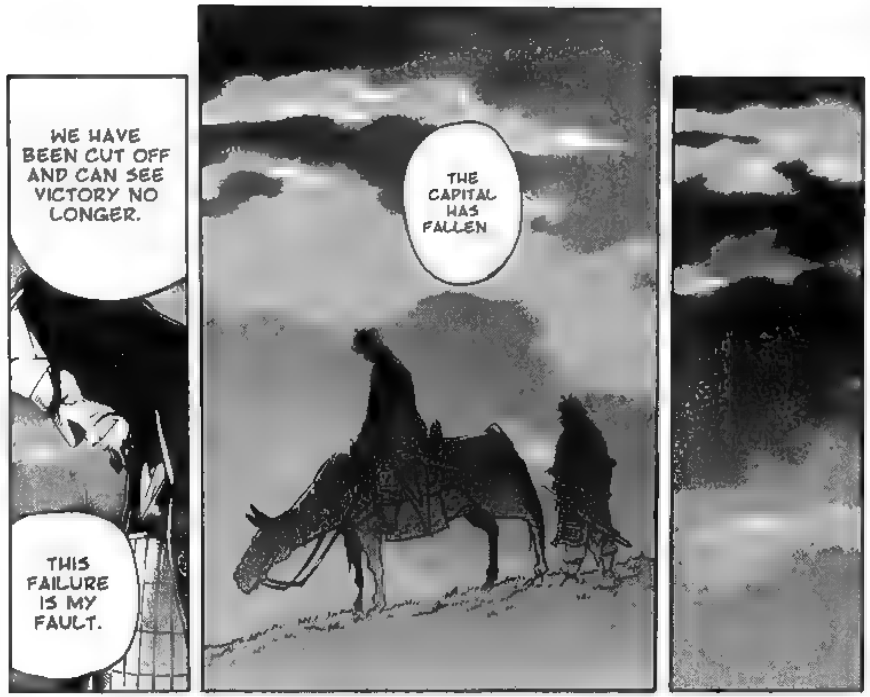
YOU MONSTER!!

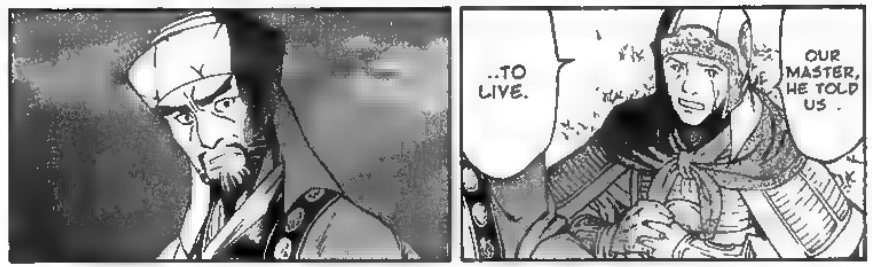
TAKE HIM AWAY.

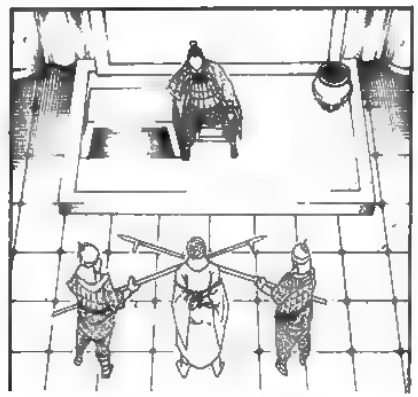

I AM HERE FAR TOO EARLY FOR MY TASTE!
WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN SO LONG TO COME?

THANKS TO YOU, DENG AI WAS ABLE TO STEAL MY GLORY.
YOU PUT UP SUCH A PERSISTENT FIGHT, GENERAL.

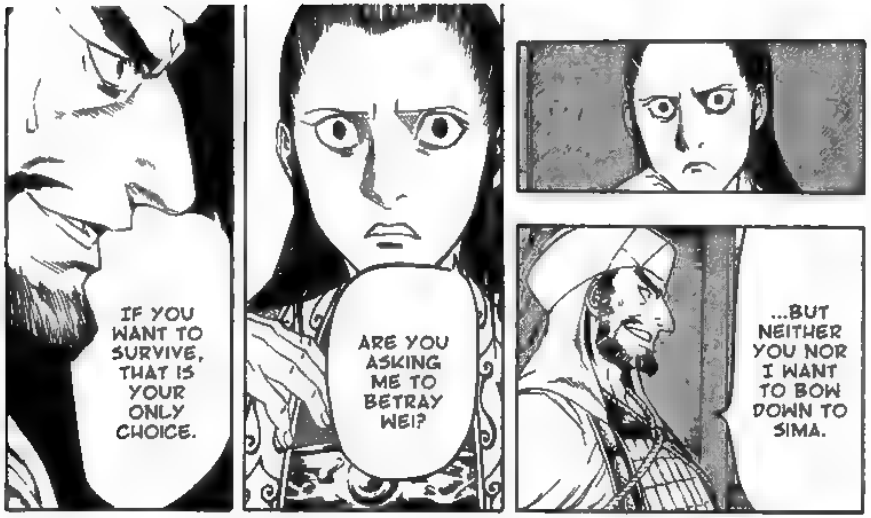

?!
AND ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?
.....

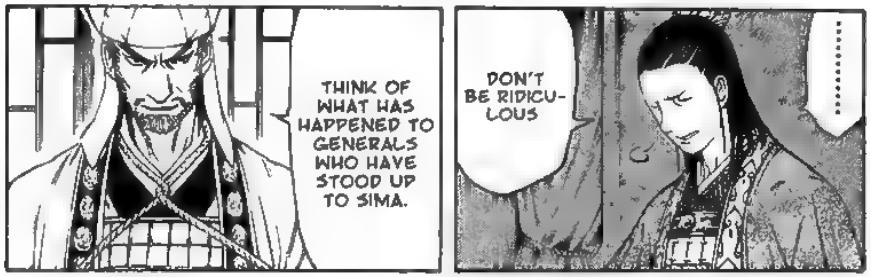

WE HAVE BEEN CUT OFF AND CAN SEE VICTORY NO LONGER.
THIS FAILURE IS MY FAULT.
THE CAPITAL HAS FALLEN


..TO LIVE.
OUR MASTER, HE TOLD US .



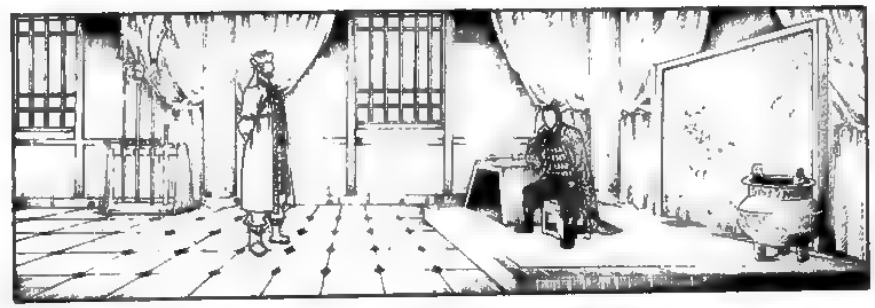
SURRENDER TO THE WEI.

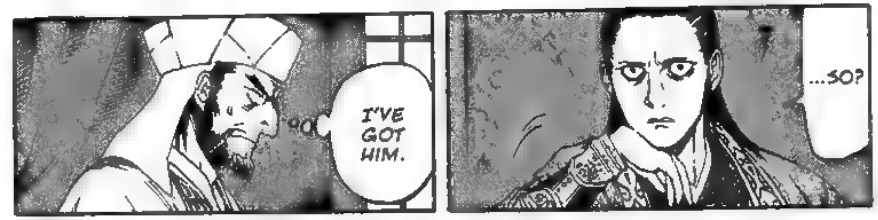

IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE, THAT IS YOUR ONLY CHOICE.
ARE YOU ASKING ME TO BETRAY WEI?
...BUT NEITHER YOU NOR I WANT TO BOW DOWN TO SIMA.


THINK OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO GENERALS WHO HAVE STOOD UP TO SIMA.
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS
.....

.....
YOU CAN USE THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

STAND DOWN.
I HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU, BUT IT IS FOR YOU ALONE. ASK YOUR MEN TO LEAVE.




I'VE GOT HIM.
...SO?

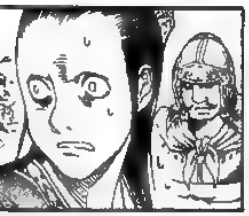
UNDER-STAND, MY LOVE FOR THIS LOST KINGDOM WILL NOT DIE...
WE LOST BECAUSE OF THE EMPEROR'S ERRORS.
I DO NOT FEEL I HAVE LOST THIS WAR TO YOU.
THE FUTURE OF SHU IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THIS MAN'S ENVY!

HAVE YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF CREATING YOUR OWN KINGDOM HERE IN SHU?
I REALIZE THIS IS AN ODD PROPOSAL...
...BUT EVEN IF IT'S MY DYING WISH, PLEASE HEAR ME OUT.
IF I WERE... TO GO ALONG WITH THIS...
DENG AI MUST BE DISOWNED BY OUR HOME KINGDOM.
THEN THE SHU ARMY COMBINED WITH MY MEN WOULD HAVE TO DEFEAT DENG AI AND TAKE CHENGDU, AND LATER LUOYANG.
I WILL NOT HAVE THAT OF THE WARRIOR THAT DEFEATED ME!!
IF YOU'VE GIVEN IT THAT MUCH THOUGHT, THEN SURELY YOU WON'T RUN AWAY FROM YOUR FATE.

I'VE BEEN EXPOSED!
SIMA ZHAO'S ARMY IS HEADED HERE?!
GENER-AL!
WHAT IS IT?!
IT'S BAD, SIR!
...TO ATTACK US!
THEY HAVE COME...
THE WEI IMPERIAL GUARD IS BACK FROM CHENGDU!

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO ORDER HIS EXECUTION.
DENG AI HAS GROWN ARROGANT.
SO IT IS TIME TO CAST HIM OFF.
I AM AWARE OF ZHONG HUI'S TREACHERY.
THIS LETTER YOU RECEIVED FROM DENG AI MUST HAVE BEEN A FORGERY!
MASTER! THIS IS ALL A PLOT BY ZHONG HUI!
WE MUST QUICKLY STRIKE AT SIMA ZHAO!!
LISTEN, SOLDIERS!!

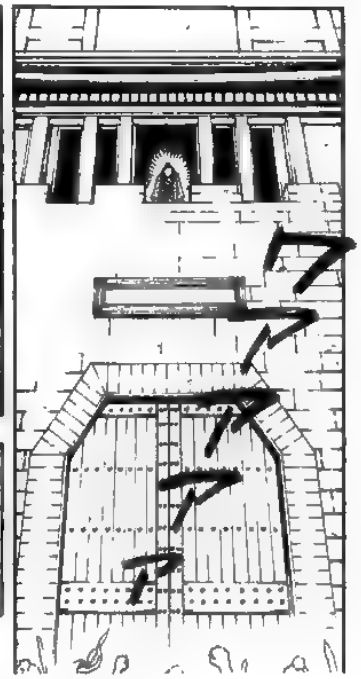
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! TO OUR DEFENSES!



!

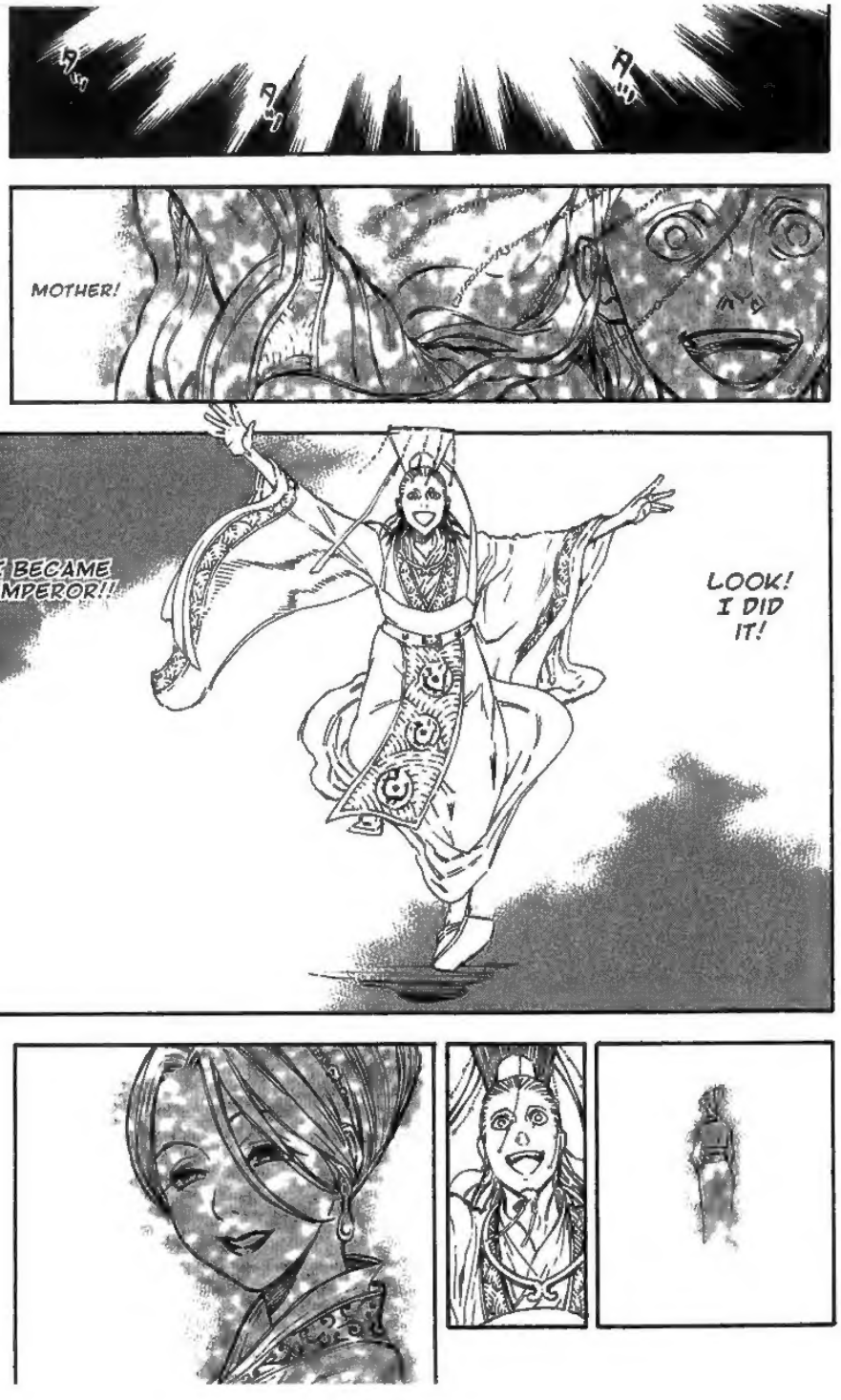
Y- YOU... WHAT IS THIS?!

LET US TEACH THESE IGNORANT WHELPS A LESSON!
PFT! HOW DARE THEY?!



STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
WHY IS EVERYONE BETRAYING ME?
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE GAINED A SMALL BIT OF WISDOM, YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE OF THE SAME STANDING AS ME?
WHY...

IT IS YOU WHO WILL DIE, ZHONG HUI!

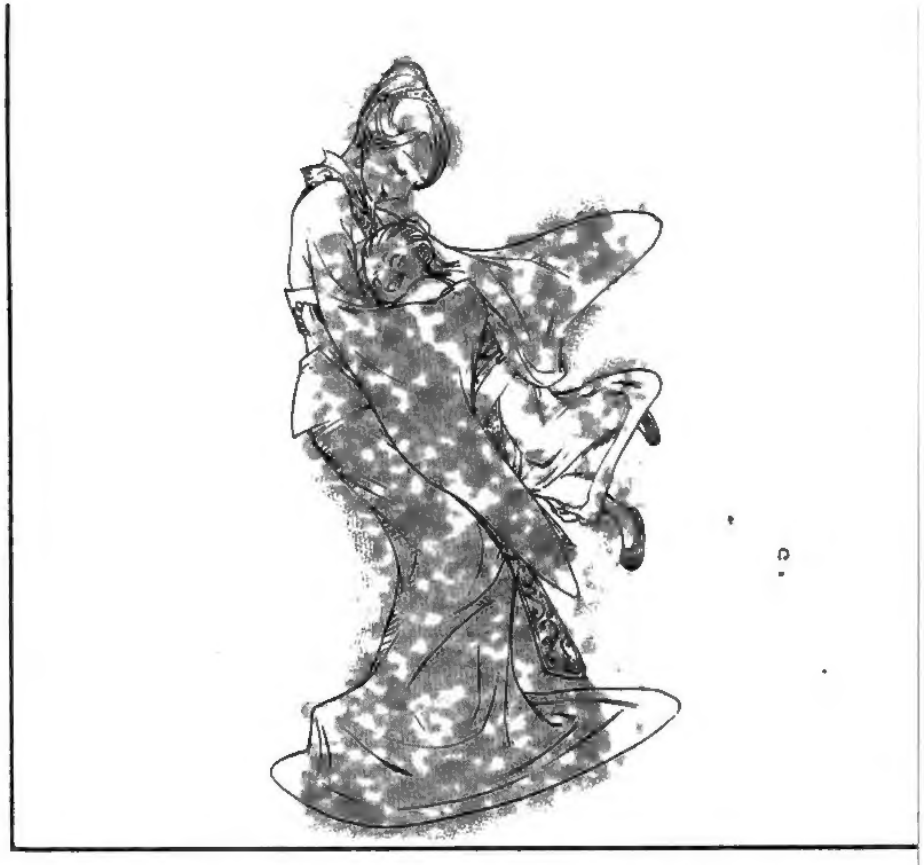


I ONLY...

QWAN 5:

COMING SOON TO JAPAN, AND THEN TO YOU!

The assassins sent by the Yellow Elders attack Shaga and her newfound family, and even though Qwan begins to remember more of his past, he is powerless to stop them. Fortunately, old friends and allies are nearby and ready to save the day. But just what do they want in return? What are their true goals, and how does this fit into both Qwan's own fate and the war for control of Han?



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